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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

What's your level of confidence in the Legislature's ability to pass a new budget for Fiscal Year 2010 before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of August 25, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnnipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Obamas' Chef

For the White House chef, serving vegetables straight from the garden is just like preparing food in her native Philippines.

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Homicide

Michael Jackson's death has been ruled a homicide caused by a mix of drugs meant to treat insomnia.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

72 faculty onboard at NMC for Fall semester. **PAGE 2**
Mayor stops knife-wielding ex-convict in attack. **PAGE 3**

UC Berkeley: Origin of bones from Saipan a mystery

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The University of California Berkeley yesterday said there

is no evidence indicating that the human bones removed from Saipan in 1945 by a U.S. Navy doctor and donated to the university's museum in 1974 were of

Japanese origin and whether they perished in the Battle of Saipan during World War II.

Daniel Mogulof, executive director of public affairs at the

University of California Berkeley, said all that the university's physical anthropologist can tell is that the bones are of East Asian descent due to a very

scanty record that was left with the museum when the remains were donated 35 years ago.

The bones are stored at UC

See UC on Page 4

Troops arrive to a hero's welcome



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A family of soldiers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Priscilla Aguon stood proudest among the throng of well-wishers that welcomed the arrival of the

57 Echo Company soldier at the Saipan International Airport yesterday.

One of the arriving soldiers, Ssgt. John Aguon, is one of Priscilla's three sons in the U.S. military.

"It feels good to be back home," said John as he embraced his youngest brother, Cedric.

See A FAMILY on Page 4

The long wait is over for 6-year-old Jenisha Dubrall. Her dad, specialist Jesse Dubrall, finally came home yesterday after a yearlong deployment to the Middle East and she finally got the chance to tell him how much she missed him. She had been practicing the past several days how she would say this to her dad.

The young Dubrall and her mom, Joannie, and 18-year old brother Jave were among the more than 300 family members and relatives of 57 soldiers with the Echo Company who waited for over three hours at the Saipan International Airport yesterday afternoon for the troop's arrival.

Many brought welcome gifts, big and small banners expressing their love, and U.S. and CNMI flags.

"We have many plans for the family. We have a lot of catching up to do on what he missed," said Joannie Dubrall.

See TROOPS on Page 4



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Local

72 faculty onboard at NMC for Fall semester

By Moneth G. Deposa
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College began the Fall semester Monday with a total of 72 faculty members: 30 instructional members and 42 non-instructional.

Positions under the non-instructional category include department chairs, scientists, counselors, and extension aids.

Saipan Tribune learned that seven full-time faculty instructors were recently hired to teach various subjects like math, nursing, business, social sciences, English, education, and psychology.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said yesterday she is very pleased with the addition of these highly qualified instructors beginning this semester.

"The appointments of these instructors reflect the college's commitment to recruit the best candidates to provide the best quality education for our students," said Fernandez.

The latest enrollment figure from the college showed that it has 933 students. That may still go up after the institution extended the registration period and waived penalties for late enrollees.

This semester's enrollment population reflects a 17-percent increase from Fall 2008's figure of 731.

But even with the increased enrollment, Fernandez said the college is still able to meet the needs of the additional students without sacrificing educational quality.

"To accommodate the increase in enrollment, the college has hired several adjunct faculty members to teach in the Fall. Before they are hired,



Fernandez

adjunct faculty members undergo a certification process to ensure they are highly qualified to teach in a higher education setting," Fernandez told *Saipan Tribune*.

The president also disclosed that several full-time instructors have agreed to teach beyond their ordinary course loads, in addition to hiring adjunct or part-time instructors for some subjects.

At present, there are three more vacancies for the instructional faculty, Fernandez said.

NMC said yesterday it also recently filled a number of other key staff positions, including facilities manager, bookstore manager, budget officer, entomologist, Rota program coordinator, and other positions.

‘3 vacancies, 3 acting for department chairs’

Of the six academic departments at the college, NMC said it announced three vacant department chair positions: the Business Department, Science Health and Athletics Department, and the Language and Humanities Department.

These positions were left vacant by former heads Eric Plinske, Mark Haag, and Glenn Keaton.

Meantime, two individuals were appointed to three departments in acting capacities: Paz Calvo for the Nursing Department and Frank Sobolewski, who is handling two other departments simultaneously.

Saipan Tribune learned that two other department chair positions have not been announced.

"At this time there are three vacancies for instructional faculty and three vacancies for department chairpersons. The recruitment process for these vacancies is underway, and the college expects to fill them soon," Fernandez said, adding that NMC is home to many exceptional and accomplished individuals.

"We continuously work on attracting and hiring the best candidates for our team," Fernandez added.



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Mayor stops knife-wielding ex-convict in attack

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Northern Islands Mayor Valentín Taisakan prevented a possible bloody incident in Koblerville when he stopped a knife-wielding ex-convict from chasing after a man.

Detective Peter Raymond Camacho stated in his report that Taisakan shouted at the suspect, Jeffrey I. Celis, who was chasing Carlos Marcelino Jr., armed with a Rambo-type 12-inch knife. Taisakan called the police, prompting Celis to flee. Celis, 39, was arrested Friday

night for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace. He was brought to the Superior Court on Monday for a bail hearing. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for his temporary liberty.

Camacho stated in his re-

port that on Aug. 15, 2009 at 1:51pm, Taisakan called the Department of Public Safety to report a disturbance in the Koblerville Housing area.

Camacho said police investigation showed that Celis and another male companion had arrived at Marcelino's house and

had called the latter to his car.

Celis' companion asked Marcelino to bring out a projector that Marcelino allegedly took. Marcelino denied taking the item. Celis' companion got mad and threw a mango at the victim, who managed to duck.

Celis got out from the car and tried to stab Marcelino with a knife. The victim, however, was able to evade him and ran in the

direction of Taisakan's house.

The mayor, who saw the chase, shouted at Celis to stop because his children were playing in the area. The mayor then called the police.

Celis stopped and, along with his companion, fled aboard their car.

Police said Celis is currently on probation for drug-related offenses in federal court.

US Marshals mum on designated prison for Villagomez, Santoses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Marshals Service remained mum yesterday on where they were taking former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, his sister Joaquina V. Santos, and her husband, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, for incarceration.

In a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Don Hall said they could not divulge any information yet with respect to the designated prison facility as Villagomez and the Santos couple "are still in transit."

Hall confirmed, however, that Villagomez and the Santoses were flown from Saipan to Guam Monday on a 3:30pm Continental flight.

Hall said that, as standard procedure, their office does not reveal where a convicted person will be taken until he or she arrives at the prison facility in the U.S. mainland.

A designated federal prison can be located by searching the names of inmates through the U.S. Department of Justice's Web site. As of yesterday afternoon, the names of Villagomez and the Santoses were still not on the Web site.

Hall said it is possible that Villagomez and the Santoses would be taken to a prison facility located in the same jurisdiction or state.

Hall refused to disclose any information as to when they transported the three from Guam to the U.S. mainland.

"We have to be very careful of what information we release because if it gets out to the general public, they can cause us security and danger issues," he said.

Hall said when Villagomez and the Santos couple called their office Monday morning, they were told that a prison has already been designated for

them and that they need to report to the U.S. Marshals Service.

"They all came down on their own and were prepared to serve the sentence," he said.

Hall said the three were in their street clothes and were handcuffed as they were being taken to the Saipan International Airport.

"Everybody is treated the same. It doesn't matter whether it's a white-collar crime, drug crime, violent crime. We treat everybody the same," he pointed out.

Hall said no lawyer was present when the three reported to the U.S. Marshal Service.

Some family members accom-

panied the three to the Horiguchi Building in Garapan where the U.S. Marshal Service is located.

Last Aug. 5, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Munson sentenced James and Joaquina to six years and

six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the United States.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals their convictions, sentences, and court orders on numerous motions.

Certifications, licensing eyed for transfer to BOE

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The certification and licensure functions of the Public School System's Human Resource Office will become the responsibility of the State Board of Education if a proposal to transfer the task is approved in today's regular board meeting.

Saipan Tribune learned that the proposed transfer of the function has been included in today's meeting agenda.

PSS, which has been handling the task for many years, is responsible for issuing certifications to eligible administrators, teachers, and school counselors.

The system provides applicants 14 days to comply with the certification application, where they may either apply for basic 1, basic 2, standard, and professional certification.

Under basic 1, applicants are not given specific courses to take but minor basic requirements for certification. It is under basic 2 and standard certifications that applicants are required to take specific courses and training to become eligible.

In the transfer proposal, it is expected that additional manpower will perform the task for the board so certification would come from the board's office.

Saipan Tribune learned that, although the function was originally BOE's, this has not been properly implemented due to the lack of funding for the purpose.

HRO, it was learned, was left to handle the function, in addition to its regular tasks.

As of July, there were 25 administrators who have yet to become fully certified and are still serving in acting capacities.

The system recorded just 12 school administrators who are

fully certified and have met all the requirements set by the Board of Education. Of these 12 individuals, eight are principals and four vice principals.

Like teachers and counselors, a compensation plan for administrators is being enforced by the system where salary provided

based on the certification they had obtained and their years of service with PSS.

School administrators, to become fully certified, must have a degree or higher, pass Praxis tests, and must have completed all courses to get an administrator's certification, which is

composed of seven different "certificates."

Majority of these "courses" are offered in online universities while other sessions are offered by PSS, which brings in experts from the United States.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are currently 12 acting principals and 13 acting vice principals in public schools.

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For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

AHEAD OF FEDERALIZATION

81 foreign investors renew, apply for permits

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least 81 foreign investors beat the Aug. 21 deadline for filing an application to renew their permit or apply for a new one with the Department of Commerce in anticipation of

the start of transition to federal immigration on Nov. 28.

In separate interviews yesterday, deputy Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar and Lillian Pangelinan of the Foreign Investment Office said 36 of the applications filed were for new foreign investor permits and 45

were for renewals.

"The number is substantial," said Pangelinan.

Commerce gave foreign investors holding long-term business certificates until Aug. 21 to apply for a renewal by submitting an application at least 90 days prior to the expi-

ration of their long-term business entry permit.

The Aug. 21 cutoff date will give Commerce ample time to review and process the applications so that when federalization starts on Nov. 28, no long-term business certificate application is pending.

As of yesterday, however, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has yet to issue the regulations for the CNMI-only transitional worker program and for foreign investors and students, making it hard for local and foreign businesses and students and other sectors to

US, Tonga ink bilateral accord to enforce laws within Tonga's EEZ

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga—A senior U.S. Coast Guard officer and a senior member of Tonga's government yesterday signed a bilateral agreement that will strengthen both countries' ability to enforce laws within Tonga's Exclusive Economic Zone.

Va'inga Tone, Tonga's Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown, commander of the U.S. Coast Guard's 14th District headquartered in Honolulu, signed the bilateral agreement that means Tongan officials may ride U.S. Coast Guard ves-

sels in order to conduct law enforcement missions within Tonga's EEZ.

U.S. Coast Guard cutters based in Honolulu and Guam frequently transit through EEZs of Pacific Islands nations.

Brown is the U.S. Coast Guard's senior officer for the Pacific.

The new agreement is similar to bilateral ship rider agreements already in place between the U.S. and Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands, and the



Tonga Secretary for Foreign Affairs Va'inga Tone, left, and Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown sign a bilateral law enforcement agreement Aug. 23, 2009, in Nuku'alofa.

resa, 5-year-old son Vidal and 1-year-old daughter Aaliyah were extremely happy and excited.

"It's about time that they come home. We will have a family party. We have a barbecue waiting at the house," Sablan's wife said.

Wearing their combat uniforms, the troops came out of the airport lounge around 4pm in formation before being reunited with their loved ones.

In his welcoming address, Fatial expressed the government and the community's full support and recognition for their sacrifices.

"You have been away for

quite some time, and you have been missed by many friends and family members, and we know you have missed our home," Fatial told the officers.

As his gift to the troops, Fatial said that he asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority to waive the parking fee of everyone at the welcoming ceremony.

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho offered welcoming prayers and former Judge Ed Manibusan, the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, also gave a message.

Manibusan recognized the sacrifices of the family of the late SSG Julian Manglona, who passed away last year.

Manibusan said the soldiers and their families' sacrifices are incredible but he assured them of the community's tremendous support and recognition.

"You can see that strong support here today. We are a proud, patriotic local community. We support our troops. We support your mission," he said.

Fatial said the CNMI has always remembered the sacrifices of World War II veterans and their exemplary service to the nation. He expressed hope that 20 to 30 years from now, the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan will enjoy the freedom the CNMI enjoys today.

"I hope that a generation

from now, the world can look back and see success from your mission and that more people in the Middle East will enjoy more democratic governments with free market economies, as a result of your efforts and that we will have a more peaceful Middle East because of your sacrifices," Fatial said.

Over a hundred people waited along Airport Road and waved to the soldiers as they passed by on their way home.

Sgt. John Paul Attao's mom said she is about to cry but is just glad the troops have finally come home safe.

Specialist Harley Eriich's wife Leilau and son Franklin

also said they are "very relieved."

She and her husband managed to talk to each other when the troops had a stopover in American Samoa last night.

"It feels really good to be back home with the family," Eriich said.

Sgt. Joseph Borja said he wanted to cry but there were just too many people.

"I'm just extremely happy and there's no more words to express that," Borja said.

Specialist Patrick Ogo said he missed the beach so much.

"There's no place like home. There were just sand in Kuwait," he said.

Noel's son, Brandon, presented him with a gift basket containing several cans of Bud Light and appetizers as a way of "expressing our love."

His two daughters, Rihel and Caitlin, said they are planning to go on vacation in Palau.

TROOPS

From Page 1

The CNMI soldiers, all members of the 100th Battalion 442nd Infantry, finally touched down around 2:30pm after an hour's delay. They flew in via a chartered plane from Fort Hood, Texas, where they've been staying since Aug. 13 after completing a one-year assignment in Kuwait.

A festive mood awaited the troops as early as 1pm, with Gov. Benigno R. Fatial and other government and civic leaders joining in the excitement.

SSG Eric Sablan's wife, Te-

resa, 5-year-old son Vidal and 1-year-old daughter Aaliyah were extremely happy and excited.

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"I hope that a generation

A FAMILY

From Page 1

Cedric is currently on rest and recreation from his unit, which is stationed in Kirkuk, in northern Iraq.

He has been in the Army for the past eight months and will be going back to Iraq at the end of this month.

On his way home, he had the chance to meet his brother John at the Camp Ali al-Salim in Kuwait.

"We spent an hour together,

went to the coffee shop and talked about what we will do when we get home," said Cedric of his three-hour stopover in Kuwait.

Another brother, Tyrone Omar, is presently deployed in South Korea.

Their father, Augustine Omar,

said the whole family is happy and it would be a grand reunion because two of his nephews are also with the Echo Company.

In fact, there are five cases of beers now waiting at their home.

"They love what they do and

I'm proud of them. Sometimes I feel scared. Whenever the phone rings, I'm worried. We just say our prayers," Priscilla said.

Two other siblings also arrived yesterday: Ssgt. Noel Chartgualaf and Ssgt. Sevio Chargualaf.

first reported on the human bones on Aug. 16. The report said the bones were that of Japanese soldiers and civilians who committed suicide, and some who may have jumped off cliffs rather than surrender in the American invasion of Saipan.

In yesterday's phone interview, Mogulof said the controversy started last year when they found out that the museum director's signature was forged and a letter carrying that signature was sent to different Japanese authorities.

The letter sent, he said, stated that the bones were that of Japanese war dead. Mogulof reiterated that there is no evidence suggesting they're of Japanese.

The Japan Consul on Saipan, Tsutomu Higuchi, did not return *Saipan Tribune*'s call for comment yesterday.

The Battle of Saipan in June and July 1944 was one of the fiercest during the war. According to Japan figures, some 43,000 Japanese soldiers and 12,000 civilians, including children, died on Saipan at that time.

Thousands of Japanese jumped to their death on Saipan rather than surrender to American forces.

The U.S. and local death toll totaled nearly 3,500 soldiers and over 900 islanders, including infants and elderly.

To this day, Japanese groups regularly come to Saipan to pay respect to their war dead and pray for world peace.

Both the U.S. and Japanese governments have also been making expeditions to World War II battlefields, including Saipan and other Pacific islands, to recover remains of their war dead.

UC

From Page 1

Berkeley's Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Mogulof said the university is "engaged in discussions with Japanese authorities" on the matter, but reiterated that no evidence suggests that the bones are those of Japanese soldiers or civilians and whether they died before or during the war.

"We know the bones were from Saipan but we don't know who these people were or how they died. We only know that they are of East Asian descent," Mogulof told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the UC Berkeley's physical anthropologist's visual inspection also revealed that "it appears at least half of

the remains were used before the war in a medical school setting since they are marked in a manner consistent with anatomical studies."

"Absent any evidence that these remains belonged to former combatants, POWs [prisoners of war] or internees, it is far from certain whether the Geneva Convention applies here," Mogulof said in an email.

Anthropologists, international law experts and California lawmakers have expressed outrage over the storage of the skeletal remains at the museum, saying the case presents legal and ethical issues that include apparent violation of the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims.

The Geneva Conventions consist of four treaties and three additional protocols that set the

standards in international law for humanitarian treatment of victims of war.

Policy' Mogulof said more than a year ago, both Japan's Yasukuni Shrine and its governmental War Victims Relief Bureau were made aware that UC Berkeley's museum holds the human remains.

"We received a letter from the shrine stating their lack of interest in the remains and never heard a word from Japanese government officials," he said.

The university is set to provide *Saipan Tribune* today with a copy of the letter they received from the Yasukuni Shrine, along with other documents in their archives relating to the remains.

"But we have sent new letters to a variety of Japanese

government agencies re-stating the lack of evidence regarding the remains' origins, and reiterating long standing policy: we are now, and always have been, ready to honor any legitimate request for repatriation," Mogulof added.

Safely stored' The UC Berkeley official said the remains have never been used for any sort of research. This is contrary to earlier reports that the bones were used for osteology, the study of bones.

"For the past 35 years, they have been safely stored in a temperature controlled facility that is not accessible to the public," Mogulof said.

He said the museum has also never used the bones for exhibits and experiments.

The *San Francisco Chronicle*

Block captains needed in villages

To help prevent crimes in the community, the Saipan Municipal Council is encouraging every village to have its own block captain.

The block captain will spearhead localized crime prevention efforts and the information exchange among neighbors. This volunteer leader will also be responsible for organizing civic activities such as cleanup drives.

So far, only two villages have active block captains: Eric Atalig in Susupe and Frank Ca-

macho in Dandan.

Anyone who wants to volunteer as block captain may contact Neighborhood Watch chair Ben Sablan at the Saipan Municipal Council office at 664-2700.

The Saipan Neighborhood Watch is a pet project of council chair Antonia Tudela.

This community leadership approach has been successful in many areas in the mainland.

The block captain is responsible for monitoring the membership of youth groups in a certain area, leading them to

participate in community programs and projects.

The captain also develops a neighborhood communications system to disseminate information to neighbors pertaining to criminal activity and other concerns that develop in his area.

He will also create mechanisms on how his group would coordinate with the police about criminal activities.

However, he should also be aware that he has no law enforcement authority. (*Nazario Rodriguez Jr.*)

Governor reappoints Aldan-Pierce, Villagomez to MVA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reappointed two individuals to the Marianas Visitors Authority board.

Marian Aldan-Pierce and Emma Villagomez were approved for another four-year term, which will both end on Sept. 5, 2013.

The two will represent Saipan on the MVA board. Their nominations require the consent and advice of the Senate.

Fitial said he and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos are confident that Aldan-Pierce and Villagomez will be assets to the board.

Aldan-Pierce, president of the Duty-Free Shoppers on island, is a former vice chairperson of

the board.

Fitial instructed the two appointees to immediately file their statement of financial interest with the Office of the Public Auditor and asked them to submit copies of their resume, statements of financial assets, police clearance, and drug test results with the Senate.

The governor said that if the Senate does not receive copies of the required documents, consideration of their appointment could be jeopardized.

The MVA's mission is to effectively promote the CNMI abroad and to improve the tourism industry on island. It is one of select government agencies that are considered essential, along with the Public School

System, Public Safety, Public Health, Northern Marianas College, and Corrections.

Due to budget constraints and projected impact of federalization in November, MVA is facing major challenges, especially in its efforts to attract more tourists to the island.

The administration and the Legislature had earlier approved the hiring of key replacement positions at the agency in their aim to help better promote the destination.

MVA's budget for the previous fiscal year was also spared from further cuts by the administration. A higher budget is being proposed for the agency in Fiscal Year 2010, to sustain its promotional and advertising activities.

Alien worker claims she was a victim in sponsorship scheme

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the 13 alien workers who were found by the Department of Labor to have been involved in a sponsorship scheme claims she was a victim in the case and has filed a lawsuit against Labor to prevent her deportation.

In a petition for judicial review, Emma L. Banez asked the Superior Court to vacate the purported decision of Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas that affirmed the Labor administrative hearing officer's ruling.

Banez, through lawyer Stephen Woodruff, asserted that the purported secretary's order was not lawfully issued and is null and void.

She asked the court to vacate the Secretary's order and remand the matter to Labor for a grant of transfer relief.

Woodruff stated in the petition that, although the purported Secretary's order is signed in the name of Secretary San Nicolas, the signature is actually that of Labor Deputy Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat.

"The position of the Deputy Secretary of Labor does not exist in Commonwealth law," the lawyer asserted. "No appointment of someone to such a position can lawfully be made."

Woodruff said the portion of the purported Secretary's order directing that Banez be repatriated within 30 days is null and void as it is a derogation of her right to judicial review of final

agency actions.

According to Labor records, Banez was one of 13 workers who each paid \$1,000 to Elenita E. Camacho to file employment applications for nonexistent jobs.

In an administrative order issued in March 2009, Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert Soll sanctioned Camacho \$500 for each of the

13 violations, for a total of \$6,500. Of the 13 workers, only 11 were granted employment transfer.

Banez was among the two workers not granted a job transfer. Soll said the two workers promoted the false sponsorships that authenticated their presence in the CNMI. Banez appealed, but the Labor Secretary affirmed Soll's order.

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Committee to Elect - Bertha M. Palacios, Treasurer

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704; 1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

Borja to lead 2010 Census for the CNMI as manager

Juan S. Borja has been appointed manager of the Local Census Office that will direct the 2010 CNMI Census, according to a Commerce Department statement issued yesterday.

"I am pleased that Mr. Borja has accepted the offer of employment to spearhead this important project. [His] experience in the 1990 Census and 1995 Mid-Decade Census provides the CNMI with the proven leadership and capability to ensure a successful completion of the 2010 Census," said Commerce Secretary Michael Ada. "Mr. Borja brings credibility to the position as he has developed an outstanding relationship with the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as the CNMI community."

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Saipan today, Aug. 26, and on Friday, Aug. 28.

In today's DUI checkpoint, the first setup will be on Chalan Pale Arnold Road by the CNMI Museum in Garapan. This will start at 7:30pm and end at 8:45pm.

Ada offered the job to Borja on Aug. 17, 2009, contingent upon the successful completion of required testing and background checks. Borja accepted the offer on Aug. 25, 2009.

Ada said that Commerce did not announce the position offered to Borja due to several limiting factors, including the short time frame from time of contract signing to the required start date of Oct. 1, 2009, as well as the critical nature of the position to the overall project.

"I am confident that we selected the most qualified candidate as this position requires a very specialized skill set and training. The U.S. Census Bureau was pleased to hear that we selected Mr. Borja for the position, which reinforces our deci-

sion to bring him on," Ada said.

The 2010 Census project calls for the hiring of about 370 full and part-time positions. Although the position for the LCO manager was not announced, all remaining positions for the 2010 Census will be announced.

The positions will be hired in phases, with the first 16 positions being announced through the Office of Personnel Management. These positions are management level and management support staff, which are all full-time positions.

Once the first 16 positions are filled and they begin work on Oct. 1, 2009, the remaining positions will be filled between Oct. 1, 2009, and Dec. 1, 2009.

"The requirement for management to announce, inter-

view, and test candidates for all remaining positions, will be the focus of the Census office once operations begin in October. OPM will not be processing these positions. Rather, the Census office will take care of the positions beginning after Oct. 1, 2009," Ada explained.

All applications, resumes, and inquiries for management level positions should be directed to OPM. Commerce will not entertain, receive, or transmit any application or resume for purposes of employment with the Census project.

"This is one of many major projects that my department is overseeing. The project will bring employment to residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and will have offices on all three is-

lands," said Ada.

He expects the project to have a significant impact on the local economy as it will provide primary or supplemental jobs to residents for the next year.

Ada said the base wages for all positions in the Census were increased by 25 percent due to a decision by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to reallocate the cost of living allowance budget included in the contract to raise base wages.

"What this means is that more people are employed earning higher wages and more money is circulating within our economy," said Ada.

Although the Census office and project falls under the Commerce Department, the office will be housed in a separate facility. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Fisherman sues over injuries in boat accident

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A fisherman has filed a lawsuit in federal court over the injuries he suffered when a motorboat allegedly drove over him as he was spear fishing at Micro Beach two years ago.

Pedro Pangelinan Pinaula sued the boat's operator, Banga Bandhu Baidya, and the boat owner, Seahorse Inc. Saipan, for negligence, reckless infliction of emotional distress, and negligent training/supervision.

Pinaula's common-law wife, Linda Cruz Pangelinan, also joined in the lawsuit to claim loss of consortium.

The two, through the O'Connor law firm, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order the defendants to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from the defendants yesterday, but their telephone numbers are not listed on the 2009 directory. Seahorse Inc. appears in the 2009 CNMI phone book, but the telephone numbers listed belongs to another company.

Baidya was at that time employed with Seahorse as employee supervisor and marine engine technician. Seahorse is engaged in the business of marine sports.

According to the complaint, on Aug. 25, 2007, Pinaula was swimming and fishing with a sling in the shallow waters off Micro Beach. A cooler for collecting fish was connected to Pinaula's waist by means of a rope.

Pinaula was swimming in an area commonly used by fishermen. He had fished there on many previous occasions without incident.

As he was going about his business, a Seahorse's motorboat allegedly operated by Baidya came rapidly toward him.

To avoid being hit, Pinaula quickly submerged. However, the rope connecting him to his cooler was caught in the boat's propeller. The rope was violently severed. The propeller also struck and cut the swimming fins on Pinaula's feet.

"As a consequence of this incident, plaintiff suffered both physical and emotional injury, including shaking, difficulty walking, persistent pain and numbness in his left arm and hand, interference with sleep, loss of strength, and mobility of his left arm and hand, and a chronic fear of boats and of the sea," the complaint alleged.

Although Pinaula had been a fisherman for the previous 20 years, the physical and emotional injuries resulting from the incident have forced him to give up regular fishing, the complaint stated.

DPS sets DUI checkpoints today, Friday

fice Building, Chalan Lau Lau, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The second setup will be on Beach Road by the Triple J Mart in Chalan Kanoa. This will start at 10:30pm and end at 11:45pm.

Each checkpoint conducted

will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

These activities are part of the

Department of Public Safety's efforts to deter, detect and apprehend impaired motorists on highways and to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

For more information, contact Sgt. Anthony Macaranas 664-9084 or 664-9085. *(PR)*

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Task force proposed to stem CUC's losses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The high level of losses at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. requires the immediate formation of a task force that will work to stem the hemorrhage and avert any further harm to the utility's operation and performance, according to the Georgetown Consulting Group.

To be called the "Loss Mitigation Task Force," members will comprise representatives from CUC and Georgetown, which was commissioned by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission to assess and investigate the corporation's current situation.

Georgetown has recommended that a meeting be held immediately to determine

the checklist of activities that should be undertaken as well as funding sources.

The consultants earlier uncovered that CUC sales decreased by more than 30 percent in the last three years as a result of unprecedented fuel price increases, loss of the garment industry on island, and the fallout from CUC's unreliable power supply.

Georgetown described two types of losses at CUC: technical losses and administrative/commercial losses.

The consultants said managing a utility's technical loss level requires an investment in the utility infrastructure such as larger conductors, low-loss transformers, static capacitors, and others—which all require capital.

"All electric power systems experience technical losses due to the physical characteristics associated with the movement of electric power over primary and secondary conductors and the transformation of electric power from transmission and distribution voltage levels to secondary voltage levels," Georgetown said, adding that there are also other forms of technical losses that increase overall loss level and can result from operating the power delivery system.

A second category of losses, administrative/commercial losses, can have many sources, according to the consultants, but unlike technical losses, these can be effectively reduced to zero.

"Commercial losses result in a loss of revenue arising from

the fact that the energy associated with commercial losses is actually consumed by a customer, but not paid for. Hence the reason commercial losses are very important," Georgetown said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the most common causes of commercial loss are faulty metering as a result of poor testing and maintenance practices, administrative errors associated with primary and multiplier-type meters, legal metered connections not found in the billing system, meter reading errors, customer accounting errors, and shortcomings in the customer information system.

Illegal connections

GCG said managing a utility's commercial losses is much more cost-effective than technical

losses because commercial losses have low-cost remedies and should be considered a priority.

One final component of administrative loss is theft of service associated with tampered meters or illegal connections.

Georgetown said this theft of service cannot be totally eliminated, but can be controlled to less than one-half percent with effective monitoring of energy and field investigations.

Given what Georgetown considers to be the severity of the matter, the consultant had proposed a broad plan to resolve CUC's high level of unaccounted-for energy.

Under the proposed Loss Mitigation Task Force, topics to be considered are the principal factors behind the high level of losses and estimate of the amount of loss it believes is associated with distribution primary conductor, transfor-

mation and secondary losses; illegal service connections and meter tampering; single phase meters defective or out of calibration; faulty primary metering installation or recording; and errors in the customer information system leading to non-billed accounts or misbilled accounts.

Among other topics to be discussed in the proposed task force meeting is the history of theft, meter tampering and current diversion, the role of the CNMI Attorney General in CUC's current diversion or theft, and CUC's loss performance objective for Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The formation of a loss mitigation task force now awaits approval from the Public Utilities Commission, which is reviewing the investigation report and proposals of the consulting firm.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

2ND FLOOR MORGAN BUILDING, SAIPAN • TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315

August 26, 2009



THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. REPUBLICAN PARTY	08/13/09 SSm-2009-X-058	POLITICAL SIGNBOARD	ALONG ROADSIDES IN SAIPAN	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (08/24/2009)
2. PACIFIC SUBSEA SAIPAN	08/18/09 SPIm-2009-X-060	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP, LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (08/20/2009)
3. PACIFIC SUBSEA SAIPAN	08/18/09 SPIm-2009-X-061	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP, LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (08/20/2009)
4. PACIFIC SUBSEA SAIPAN	08/18/09 SPIm-2009-X-062	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP, LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (08/20/2009)
5. INTERPACIFIC RESORT SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL	08/18/09 SSm-2009-X-063	BEACH SIGNS	SAN ANTONIO	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW*
6. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION SAIPAN	08/20/09 SSm-2009-X-064	FILMING	SAIPAN SHORELINE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (08/24/2009)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
POST OFFICE BOX 1547, ROTA, MP 96951
PHONE: 1.670.532.7242
EMAIL: email@rotacasino.com

PURSUANT TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT ACT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DIEGO M. SONGAO HEREBY ANNOUNCES THAT THE ROTA CASINO GAMING COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2009.

DATE: Friday, 28 August 2009
TIME: 2:30 PM
LOCATION: Antonio Camacho Atalig Memorial Annex Building
Rota Casino Gaming Commission's Office

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
 - Funding Status
- VII. New Business
 - Junket Regulations (Draft)
 - Request for LWOP
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

*At anytime during the meeting, the Commission may move to Executive Session.

/s/ DIEGO M. SONGAO
Chairman

24, August 2009

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For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

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Jaime P. Salazar
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Direct line (670) 236-2402



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MELL SENOKO	026E	8/15 Sat	8/13 Thu	8/13 Thu	8/11 Tue	8/8 Sat	8/21 Fri	8/17 Mon	8/16 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/9 Sun	8/17 Mon	8/21 Fri	8/23 Sun	8/25 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	025E	8/22 Sat	8/20 Thu	8/20 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/15 Sat	8/28 Fri	8/24 Mon	8/23 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/24 Mon	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	8/29 Sat	8/27 Thu	8/27 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/22 Sat	9/4 Fri	8/31 Mon	8/30 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/31 Mon	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/5 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/3 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/29 Sat	9/11 Fri	9/7 Mon	9/6 Sun	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	9/7 Mon	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue
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Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
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MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	9/12 Sat	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/16 Wed	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Fri	9/26 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/4 Sun	9/30 Wed
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/19 Sat	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue	9/23 Wed	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	SKIP	10/2 Fri	10/3 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/11 Sun	10/7 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/26 Sat	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	SKIP	9/30 Wed	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Fri	10/10 Sat	10/15 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/18 Sun	10/14 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	10/3 Sat	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue	10/7 Wed	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/16 Fri	10/17 Sat	10/22 Thu	11/10 Tue	10/25 Sun	10/21 Wed

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS
NMC registration extended to Aug. 28

The Northern Marianas College, in its efforts to accommodate students who still have not registered for the Fall 2009 semester, has extended registration to Friday, Aug. 28, 2009. Registration is ongoing from 8am to 5pm. Late registration fees will be waived for students who register during this period.

Admission applications for those who have already taken both placement tests will be accepted up to the last day of registration as well.

NMC offers a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, as well as an associate degree in Business, Liberal Arts, Nursing, Natural Resource Management, Business Administration (with emphasis in accounting, sales and marketing, computer applications, etc.), Hospitality Management, Criminal Justice, and more.

For more information, call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 extension 1524, e-mail oar@nm



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Belated happy birthday greetings to Gabriel White, who celebrated his birthday yesterday, Aug. 25. Wishing you a safe journey home and many more birthdays to come. From your Chalan Kiya family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A birthday shoutout to Sonia Castro who is celebrating her special day today, Aug. 26! Greetings come from your family and the ones who love you!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Tedley "Ellechel" Theodore Ngewakl! May all your wishes come true and may the dear Lord bless you today and always! Greetings come from your loving wife and kids (Techakl, Trolli and Princess Eb), Timb (Tyrell, Tyller and Tyreze), Brad and Yvonne (Pia and Nolan); Mom and Dad, Harl, Fin and Marino and Manang Lioni!



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION


**NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST**

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereinafter described:

LOT NO. 019 1 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 1 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. Thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **One Hundred Two Thousand, Nine Hundred Sixty and 00/100 (\$102,960.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2009.

/s/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

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cnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

ChaCha sets parent, student orientations

ChaCha Ocean View Jr. High has scheduled its parent/ student orientation on the following dates and time:

8th and 7th grade orientation is on Sept. 3, from 9am to 10am.

6th grade orientation is on Sept. 4, from 9am to 10 am.

Orientations will be held in the school cafeteria.

SSHS reminders to incoming students

All students that have been evaluated and graduated from junior high are entered into the system but they are still required to *register*. You are not officially enrolled if your parents/legal guardians did not submit a registration form. Forms can be picked up from the Counseling Office and submitted ASAP for your child to be enrolled in SSHS.

All returning students that attended last year must return all textbooks and settle all ob-

ligations with the school before picking up one's class schedule. You will not be permitted to remain on campus.

Ninth grade student orientation and class schedule pick up will be held on Aug. 26, from 1pm to 4pm. Please attend with parents or legal guardian.

All transfer and new students coming from private or public school in grades 10th, 11th and 12th are required to attend the orientation on Aug. 27, from 9am to 12pm with their parents or legal guardians. No students will be allowed without a parent or guardian in attendance.

If you have any questions about registration or orientation, call 664-4000 or 237-3713. (PR)

Maltese dog found

On Monday morning, a responsible worker at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe reported to PAWS that she had found an adult male Maltese just outside the hotel.

If you are missing a friendly male Maltese, contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-

9669. Alternatively, you may contact PAWS at 285-PAWS.

Please note that if the dog is not claimed within four days of this notice, the dog will be made available for adoption to a responsible and loving home. (PR)

Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that the parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

Sept. 8 (Tuesday): Kindergarten 3pm-4pm

4th graders, 4pm-5pm

5th graders 5pm-6pm

6th graders 6pm-7pm

Sept. 9 (Wednesday): 1st graders, 4pm-5pm

2nd graders, 5pm-6pm

3rd graders, 6pm-7pm

The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher. Please be on time. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUG 26, 1999

Senate eyes tighter pre-screening procedures

In a swift reaction to a recommendation from a visiting key U.S. congressional staff, the Senate is expected to pass today a proposed measure to establish a Washington-approved list of foreign individuals and agencies that will screen guest workers seeking entry into the CNMI. Offered by Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes, the legislation will respond to concerns raised by Manase Mansur, adviser on insular and international affairs of the U.S. House Resources Committee, during his recent meetings with local officials. The proposal is one of few crucial bills that senators hope to pass during their session this afternoon, including a measure that will grant spending powers to the Commissioner on Education over capital improvement project funds of the Public School System.

Enrollment at NMC declines

A top college official said yesterday the Northern Marianas College may be able to reduce its tuition rates, as proposed by a legislator, provided the Legislature would appropriate budget for college operations. Ramon Villagomez, chairman of NMC's Board of Regents, reminded the Senate and House members that the college is only receiving legislative appropriations for personnel, while funds for operations are sourced from tuition paid by students who are receiving grants from the government's Education Assistance Program or EAP. Villagomez noted a big decrease in college enrollment as a result of the government's new policy eliminating EAP assistance to part-time students, who account for 57 percent of the college student population.

AUG 26, 2002

So why did Torres resign? Rumor mill on overdrive

Just before he flies for Japan today, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is expected to meet with some of the staff of the Attorney General's Office to map out the next few days' operations, in the wake of the abrupt resignation of Attorney General Robert T. Torres. Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente, who still declined to comment on the matter at the moment, merely said he expects the meeting "at least to make sure the AGO continues with its normal operations and processes, and that work should not be hampered." Babauta had earlier issued a brief statement on Torres's resignation, saying he and Benavente have accepted the Attorney General's decision and that they are confident the staff and lawyers at the AGO will continue to work effectively for the people of the Commonwealth.

DOLI, DPS, DPH take lead in performance initiative

With the Babauta administration operating in deficit mode two months before the end of the fiscal year, the Office of the Governor disclosed that government agencies are now analyzing its work processes to streamline these and reduce government costs. Robert Schwalbach, Gov. Juan N. Babauta's senior policy adviser, said that running the government efficiently is the thrust of the administration's Performance Government Initiative. He said some government agencies have formed groups to review their work processes.

AUG 26, 2003

All systems go for biz-friendly NMI

Creating just one enforcement arm for all the permitting agencies in the Commonwealth would not only save the government money but it would also resolve any conflicts or overlapping of jurisdictions among them. Toward this end, Rep. William S. Torres said he is now reviewing the existing statutes and regulations to find out if it will require legislation to do this. "Each agency has its own enforcement arm and I think that we need to consolidate that and have one code enforcement unit. This unit can enforce the conditions and requirements of all of these permits," said Torres.

Old Japanese airfield rehab kicks off celebration

Local government authorities have intensified efforts to rehabilitate the old Japanese airfield in As Lito, considered a centerpiece in next year's 60th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Saipan. Representatives from concerned government agencies, led by Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, held their on-site meeting yesterday while marking the start of the rehabilitation work on the World War II complex. The complex consist of over 20 different military facilities, including the Japanese military hospital, power plant, oxygen generation plant, repair and maintenance area, pyrotechnics building, administration building, dispensary, gasoline storage bunkers, Japanese airplane hangers, semi-underground bomb storage, and soldier barracks.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
ACT OF 2006

ADMINISTRATIVE DOCKET

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission provides public notice that it is considering the adoption of an administrative order governing certificates of public convenience and necessity for telecommunications services in the Commonwealth pursuant to its authority under 4 CMC §§ 8409[m][4] and 8457. The proposed order is available for public inspection at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's office at the Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan and on the Chamber's website: www.saipanchamber.com.

The Commission invites public comment regarding the proposed order, which should be submitted by either hand delivery to the Chamber's office or by email to kyle.calabrese@gmail.com not later than September 1, 2009. Inquiries regarding the proposed order should be referred to Commissioner Calabrese at the above email address.

August 19, 2009.

Echo Company Homecoming



Nicollette Lopez is all smiles as she shows off a placard she made for her father, Sgt. Luis Deleon Guerrero, one of the 57 U.S. Army Reserve officers with the Echo Company who arrived yesterday after a yearlong deployment in Kuwait. Hundreds of government officials led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, military officials, and community members were at the Saipan airport to welcome back the troops, while others lined up along the roads leading to and from the airport to wave at the troops and their families and relatives.



A returning Army Reserve officer gets a kiss from a relative.



Members of the Kaipat family wear "Echo C" shirts and held miniature American flags as they patiently wait for the arrival of 57 U.S. Army Reserve officers at the Saipan airport yesterday afternoon.



Families holding American flags line up the road leading to and from the Saipan airport to welcome back 57 U.S. Army Reserve officers yesterday afternoon.



One of the 57 returning U.S. Army Reserve officers is ready to go home with his family after a welcome ceremony yesterday afternoon at the Saipan airport.



A returning U.S. Army Reserve officer gets a hug from a member of the family of the late Staff Sgt. Wilgene T. Lieto, along Airport Road yesterday afternoon. Lieto died in Iraq during a mission patrol on Oct. 31, 2005.



A girl carrying a placard to welcome her dad is carried on the shoulders of a relative as they wait for the arrival of 57 U.S. Army Reserve officers with the Echo Company yesterday at the Saipan airport.



Families of the 57 U.S. Army Reserve officers with the Echo Company display "welcome home" signs as they wait for the soldiers' arrivals. The crowd cheered and applauded as the troops exited the airport to see their families and relatives for the first time in a year after their deployment in Kuwait.



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR ACTIVE AND RETIRED MEMBERS OF
THE NMI RETIREMENT FUND

The Board of Trustees, NMI Retirement Fund, proposes to adopt resolutions to protect the Retirement Fund's assets for all Fund members by any means necessary until such time as the Fund is no longer in a fiscal emergency, as follows:

Board Resolution No. 09-002 "Non-Recognition of Retiree Adoptions for Survivor Benefits Purposes" – proposes to restrict the Fund from processing any amendments or additions to originally filed Applications for Retirement that would add beneficiaries arising through adoption for purposes of the computation of survivor benefits.

Board Resolution No. 09-003 "To Cease Payment of Employee Contribution Refunds" – proposes for the Fund to cease processing refunds of employee contributions.

The Board of Trustees will hold public hearings to hear the comments of Fund members and the general public on these Board resolutions, published in the Saipan Tribune on July 15, 2009 and available from the Fund website at www.nmiretirement.com, as follows:

Wednesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:30 PM – Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan
Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:00 PM – Superior Courthouse, San Jose, Tinian
Friday, August 28, 2009, 6:30 PM – Rota Round House, Songsong Village, Rota

NMI Retirement Fund members and the public are encouraged to participate.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 204

Published daily at 2/F JP Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Self-muzzled at Yale

An illustration from a children's book. An Ottoman print. A 19th-century artist's depiction of "Dante's Inferno." These are among the images Yale University Press has decided it's unsafe to reproduce in a scholarly work, lest they incite violence from Islamic extremists. The Press' John Donatich explained that the publisher doesn't shy away from controversy, but "when it came between that and blood on my hands, there was no question."

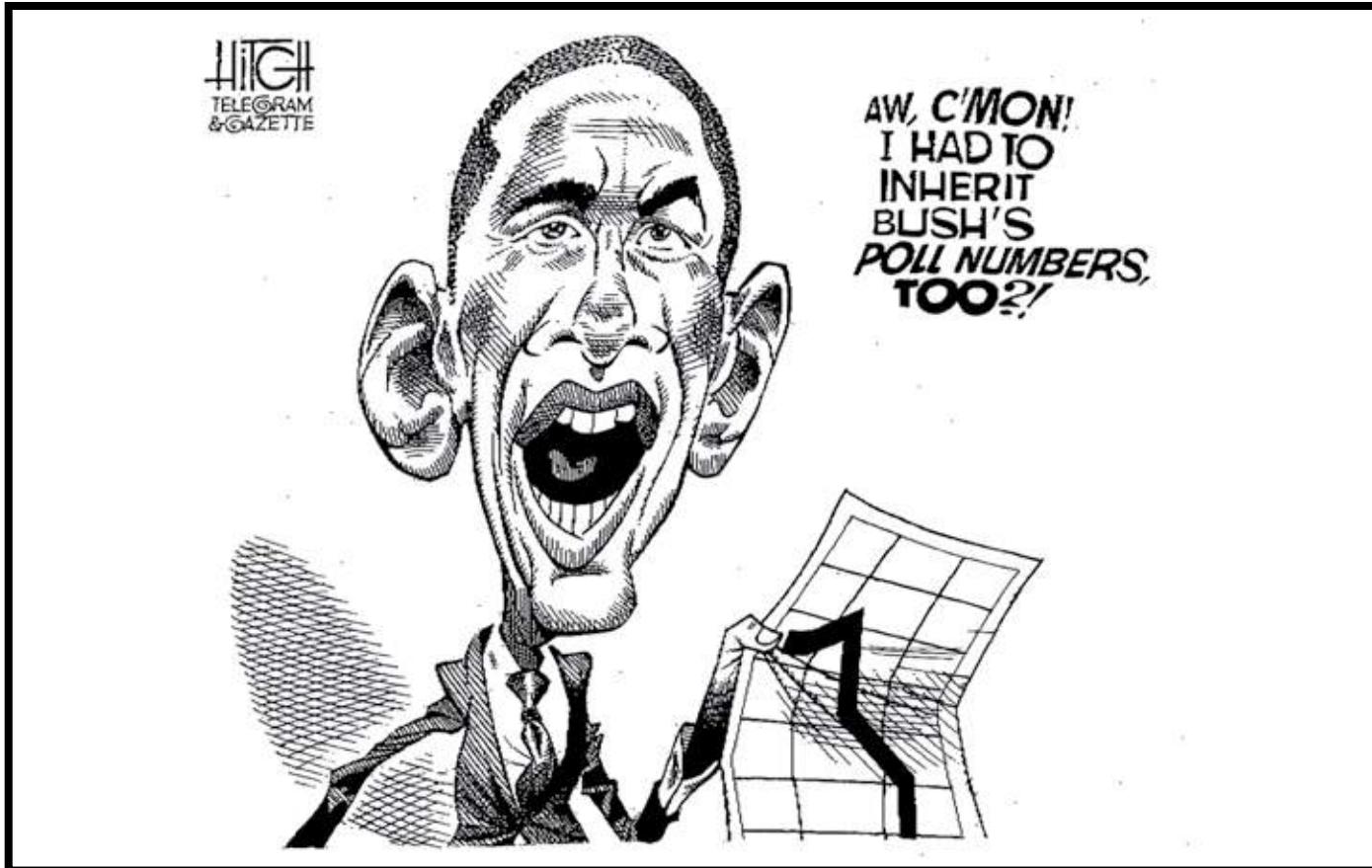
This is simply wrong.

The scholarly work in question is Jytte Klausen's *Cartoons that Shook the World*, a book about the 12 cartoons of the prophet Muhammad whose 2005 appearance in a Danish paper ignited a worldwide controversy. Yale University Press is publishing it in the fall—or some of it. Not just the picture of the newspaper's controversial page of cartoons but all of the book's illustrations, which include a historical range of artistic depictions of the prophet, will be omitted. Why? Because what the Press described as a group of "counterterrorism officials...U.S. diplomats...foreign ambassadors from Muslim countries...and senior scholars in Islamic studies"—without so much as reading the book—deemed them too inflammatory to publish. This was *after* the book had passed Yale University Press' own vetting process, was examined by lawyers and read by multiple Islamic reviewers who agreed that the images should be included. Worse, the book's author could not even read the objections from the largely unidentified group of experts unless she signed a non-disclosure agreement.

Yale's self-censorship establishes a dangerous precedent. If one of the world's most respected scholarly publishers cannot print these images in context in an academic work, who can? To be sure, the cartoons are inflammatory and tasteless, depicting the prophet with a bomb as a turban or telling a group of suicide bombers to "Stop! We have run out of virgins!" But it's difficult to imagine a more legitimate place for them or to understand why a prohibition on images of the prophet that is not even observed by all Muslims should have to apply to a scholarly work by a nonbeliever.

In effect, Yale University Press is allowing violent extremists to set the terms of free speech. As an academic press that embraces the university's motto of "Lux et Veritas," it should be ashamed.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Without a clear objective

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

Without a clear objective
there's no way for you to know
whether what you choose has meaning
or is just a moment's show

Without a clear objective
there's no telling what you'll do
When you don't know where you're going
any road, my friend, will do

And, without a clear objective
there'll be times you'll want to hide
You'll resent life's impositions
and feel taken for a ride

Without a clear objective
people make you part of theirs
you'll go fighting all their battles
get swept up in their affairs

Without a clear objective
you can't know if you're off track
life's one detour then another
no main road that calls you back

But with purpose you gain power
strength to do a world of good
for beyond all doubt and question
you'll be doing what you should

And with purpose you gain clarity
to know what's best for you:
"Does this help or does it hinder?"
Then you'll know what you should do

And with purpose you gain courage
to embrace life without fear
When you know where you are heading
every road can you get there

And with purpose you gain time
to handle all of life's concerns
for you know when this is over
you've got someplace to return

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

And with purpose you gain peace
and chaos leaves without a trace
For when you're clear about your calling
everything falls into place!

Are you feeling stressed? Do you feel confused by the many choices, options and opportunities that are open to you? Don't know which to choose? Are you feeling stretched to the limit by the many obligations and expectations the world has of you? Well, it could simply be that you're not clear about your calling. When you have a clear idea of why you're here on the planet, then things tend to make a bit more sense. Really!

If there was something that you did that you absolutely knew was your purpose, then everything else would take its rightful place in the hierarchy of your mind and your affairs. So, when faced with opportunities, you wouldn't wonder, "Is this more important than what I'm currently doing? Is that a better opportunity than this?" And when the demands of being mother, wife, sister or friend get overwhelming, you wouldn't feel yourself frustrated by those duties and responsibilities for you would know that while important, after you've handled an urgent issue or emergency, you'd have something to return to focus on.

When required to make choices, you could simply measure them against your purpose and ask, "Does this help me to accomplish or hinder me from doing the 'thing' I'm here to do?" When people make demands of you, you would ask, "How can I help this person and their cause, without diverting myself from my core expertise and from doing what I do best?"

See how simple life gets when you know who you are and why you're here? That's why taking the time (however long it takes) to become clear on your purpose here on the planet is one of the most important, empowering and liberating projects to work on. Do it now!

Suggested reading: *The Tao of Wow* (www.taoofwow.com), which includes an overview of the 45 life themes expressed as "The 45 ways of Men (and Women)"

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese Garment Factory Girl on Saipan* may now find copies at Bookseller Bookstore in the Joe-Ten Plaza in Susupe or on Amazon.com. Hurry, there's a limited supply!

See WITHOUT on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The dance of the green card faerie

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

It is always a delight to see our otherwise sedate and meticulous watchers of regs and statutes comment on their encounter with the world of the faeries, local and federal, in this case, the NMPASI executive director musing over the federal Rain Dance on behalf of the local Rain Man, but the matter is serious enough that we should tolerate, nay, encourage any display of levity in dealing with the subject.

On the general subject that the above refers to, "Where do they give away the green cards?" was the question posed to me by a Chinese worker from one of the Beach Road hotels who attended the Saturday rally of contract workers when the congressional delegation was on island a couple of weeks ago.

This was not the first time I faced this question. Evidently, the word is going around orally and in the Internet (I could not confirm this since the Web site shown me was in Chinese) that if one were in the CNMI before November 2009, there is a likelihood of one getting a green card. I was alerted of this in *Dong Bei* China in May when I was asked point blank by a well-meaning businesswoman how much it would cost her to come to the Commonwealth to pick up a green card. A travel agent allegedly told her of this as an option, particularly to those who had worked or resided in the CNMI before.

This line about immigration green cards being handed out before November has been used to market visitor's visas to Chinese tourists to the tune of up to \$6,000 per 90 day period, not unlike the promise made to Koreans on behalf of a local educational institution regarding certificates it issued or will issue as accredited in the U.S. and the more recent scam on prospective investors to a local resort venture as entitling one to an automatic investor's visa.

This week, I received another e-mail inquiring if a former resident should return to Saipan before the end of November so that she could qualify for a carte blanche green card she said she can have when local immigration is federalized.

The absence of regulations in the projected federalization of immigration, as bewailed by our NMPASI director, is shared by many, especially those NGOs who harbored "refugees" in labor and immigration issues in the last 10 years. The former Marianas Resource

Center of the Immanuel UMC once assisted a mother with a 10-year-old daughter afflicted with cerebral palsy to get the necessary medical and educational services she deserved. Our famed NMPASI XD was an ardent advocate but he was hedged on many sides by the indifference of care providers, legal ignorance of regulators, or just sheer inertia from those burdened by the inexorable demand on their attention and resources.

The wheel-chaired child's mother managed to get a multiple entry visa from her country of origin to the United States to accompany her American daughter to the West Coast for a preferred medical treatment so some of us pulled our mileage awards together and got the mother-child duo passage to where medical attention was available.

That was more than five years ago. The last we heard, mother met a gentleman with a disability who also needed care, and since necessity is the mother of invention, our mother-child duo found solace and support from a friendly resource. There will be those who will cry out that we perpetuate fraud again to sidestep immigration procedures, but for now, we won't go there.

The fact is, obeisance before the altar of the mighty green card has become idolatrous. And why not? As a nation, we occupy one of the two last continents still getting populated on the surface of the earth. We are historically a nation of immigrants! Most of us ignore that fact but our statue of Liberty attests to it.

A colleague was once warned that whatever she did when first crossing the immigration threshold at the then INS booth in Honolulu, she was to avoid at all cost facing up to a Filipino officer. The nemesis for a Filipino visitor, she was told, is the second-generation Filipino-American bureaucrat. INS officers then were known to have a general disdain for immigrants, particularly of their own ethnicity, and the advice above applied as well to Koreans, Japanese, and Chinese. Later, around D.C., Eritreans, Ethiopians, Guatemalans and Vietnamese echoed the same sentiment.

Most of us, of course, are self-righteous about the alleged absence of racial prejudice in our bones. I usually shy away from vehement deniers of their racism. In my book, we are all racist! When not in good social form, my mother asks if I was "intsk" (Chinese)—one devoid of a sense of social etiquette. I grew up in a language where Judas and *Judio* (Jew) are synonymous, also

meaning, traitor, liar and a thief! Seventy percent of my Filipino friends voted against Obama because he is "engot" (dark-skinned). I am prejudiced; still working on it being otherwise, but I will not be a hypocrite in this instance.

While a student in Dallas in the late '60s, the pecking order in our secular office was: White (educated-hillbilly-redneck-trash), black (industrial-plantation), MexTex (Hispanic-Creole), Oriental (Nippon-Malay-Sino/HK-Sino/Taiwan-Zhongguo-Hankook), Suramericano, South Asian, African, Pacific Islander, Semitic, etc.

The issue is not whether we are racist; it is whether our laws still legally support institutionalized racism. Cultural practices will. In the history of the United States, our racism is most pronounced in the area of immigration. With civil rights legislation only a stone's throw away in our near memory, it would do us well to remember that we are just at the portal of seeing whether we can transcend history, cultural biases, and recurring ethnic claims to superiority. The European Union has loosened interstate access. Maybe, NAFTA will follow. Does the CNMI dare to be in the cutting edge of immigration history?

The visa waiver to the islands no longer extended to Chinese and Russians is shortsighted. Are our homeland security structures and personnel that inefficient and lacking of self-confidence? Treating long-term contract workers, particularly those who have biologically and sociologically integrated themselves into the CNMI, as aliens, is racism of the worst kind. Might the CNMI lead the nation in conducting immigration procedures from the behavior of good neighbor rather than the unfounded fears of combative defendants?

We had been assured that come the end of November, no one is going to be sent home, particularly, those who have already established a home in the local habitat. While this is good news, we dare not forget that some sectors of our population have been deliberately waging psychological *kristallnacht* toward contract alien workers in the CNMI for quite a while. Even in November.

Having acquired my green card in the early '70s, and having assisted a few to acquire theirs, we are unequivocal to inquiring friends and acquaintances: There are NO green cards for distribution before November 2009. For those desiring to get one, it involves a laborious and lengthy process. But Homeland Security and Jeff Schorr of Interior, let's get the immigration regs out! And fast, please!

Letters to the Editor

Please override Fitial's veto

A public meeting was held with zoning at the Kagman Community Center last year. Kagman residents who attended voiced their concerns and all agreed that poker rooms and pawnshops should not be allowed in Kagman.

There are currently four poker parlors and one pawnshop in Kagman.

Residents mentioned that poker rooms and pawnshops attract gambling addiction, drugs, and crime. Crystal methamphetamine

Self-interested lawmakers

The people of the Commonwealth, especially the suffering consumers, taxpayers and voters, must know what our elected officials have been doing.

How many elected officials have either abstained or were absent during CUC oversights?

How many elected officials have their hands tied behind them for "fear" of losing their self-interest benefits?

How many elected officials lease our public lands for 25 years then turn around and sub-leases it (public land) to our very own government, to include tapping into federal funds? A government entrusted to them by the public.

While the common ordinary individuals interested in long term leases with public lands are given a hard time, including a limited annual lease to certain public lands, how was it possible for a public servant to be given special treatment?

We find such self-interest infringements using our public lands disappointing. That a public servant would be involved in such activities, benefiting from the taxpayers who have long suffered from injustices from our public utilities, is a disgrace. This issue is intolerable and it is truly evident that the reasons why lawmakers cannot honestly deliver what is

users usually gather in poker rooms day and night. Crimes such as child neglect, domestic violence, burglaries, and others are linked to poker rooms and pawnshops.

To top it all off, Kagman does not have a police station of its own, yet it is the most isolated and fastest growing village in the Marianas today. We humbly ask the Legislature to consider overriding Fitial's veto to abolish poker rooms and pawn shops entirely in Kagman village so that residents can have a better quality of life.

right for the people when it comes time for debates on the floor on CUC. A lawmaker with such conflict of interest is either absent or abstains from voting during CUC oversights and debates on the floor.

How many more elected officials benefited from the taxpayers and voters, their constituents? Who was responsible for the Water Task Force project?

While our elected officials infringe and lavish themselves with self-interest leaseholds, the public is given a hard time at the Department of Public Lands. One year is all they give applicants seeking a piece of public land to farm or graze livestock! This is the only business or activity authorized by DPL, while our elected officials are given special treatment to build warehouses and commercial buildings then sub-leases it back to the government they swore under oath to protect and defend.

How many of you our elected officials are involved? If any of you fail to respond to this, it's OK for we the people, taxpayers, and voters, will find out ourselves—guaranteed!

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

them to [www.bestofsaipan.com!](http://www.bestofsaipan.com/)

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including *Turn Your Passion Into Profit*. Walt offers coaching and workshops

Thank you.

Jesse D. Torres
President, Kagman Komunidad Association

An impressive job

I saw CUC personnel working in the rain on a dark Saturday afternoon and evening in San Vicente. They did superb work repairing a pole and transformer that had burned. CUC can be criticized in many ways but those men were doing an impressive and demanding job.

Richard W. Pierce
San Vicente, Saipan

Special thanks to Palms Resort

We the family, would like to sincerely thank, the management and staff of Palms Resort. We like to especially thank Palms Resort GM Mustafa Issa, executive chef Dave Jones, and Christie for making our parents' 50th wedding anniversary enjoyable and, most of all, memorable. The staff was very helpful and professional. They went the extra mile to make our experience everlasting. Also, we would like to thank all the friends and families that showed up on this special day. Hopefully, our experience would encourage everyone to consider the Palms Resort in their future events. Thanks again!

Tony Camacho
Tananapag, Saipan

to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

SO WHAT

From Page 10

Note: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89 ▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86 ▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼76
London	Rain	▲70 ▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲87 ▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲59 ▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼72
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲75 ▼61
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲79 ▼72
Rome	Sunny	▲88 ▼67
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼51
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲73 ▼56
Seoul	Showers	▲81 ▼73
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲91 ▼71

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Today	6:04 AM	6:34 PM	Today	11:14 AM	10:45 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM	Thursday	12:09 PM	11:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM	Friday	1:03 PM	
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM	Saturday	1:54 PM	12:24 AM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	2:43 PM	1:15 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHTOS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-CUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily
C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily
C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP
C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5
C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily
C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily
C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily
NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily
NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO
NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily
C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1
OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX
OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN
OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM
OZ716/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN
OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline ETD ETA Frequency

Guam-Rota

FRE 113 11:40am 11:50am Daily

FRE 115 1:00pm 1:10pm Daily

FRE 117 2:30pm 2:40pm Daily

FRE 119 4:00pm 4:10pm Daily

FRE 121 4:40pm 4:50pm Daily

FRE 123 * 5:40pm 5:50pm Daily

FRE 125 * 6:00pm 6:10pm Daily

Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily

FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily

FRE 106** 8:20am 8:30am Daily

FRE 108** 9:00am 9:10am Daily

FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily

FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily

FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily

FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily

FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm Daily

FRE 120** 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily

Business

Data hints consumers handling credit cards better

NEW YORK (AP)—The rate at which credit card holders fell behind on their payments was far worse in the second quarter than it was last year, but did improve sharply from the alarming level seen in the first three months of 2009.

The shift since the first quarter shows that consumers handled their credit better even as job losses mounted and the recession deepened, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion.

TransUnion said the rate of bank-issued credit card payments that were 90 days or more past due shot up to 1.17 percent for the three months ended in June, from 1.04 percent in the 2008 period.

But the figure was down significantly from the first quarter of this year, when 1.32 percent of card holders were three months or more behind on the payments. That improvement came despite soaring unemployment and other economic pressures.

Long-term data shows that second-quarter payments are

more likely to be made on time than payments in the first quarter. Typically, consumers use tax refunds or salary bonuses to pay off debt, often after running up card balances during the holidays.

But while a decrease in delinquencies in the second quarter from the first isn't unusual on a historical basis, it does mark the first improvement in a year. Moreover, the figures show less impact from the weak economy than expected.

"What's interesting about this year's decrease in the second quarter is we're still in a recession," said Ezra Becker, director of consulting and strategy in TransUnion's financial services group.

In addition to higher unemployment—the jobless rate reached 10.6 percent in June—many people who still had jobs earned less, as employers cut back on hours, overtime and bonuses. "Since unemployment is a primary driver of delinquency, you would have expected an increase in delinquency," Becker said.

AP source: Obama to nominate Bernanke to 2nd term

OAK BLUFFS, Mass. (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, widely credited with taking aggressive action to avert an economic catastrophe after the financial meltdown last fall, will be nominated by President Barack Obama for a second term, The Associated Press learned Monday night.



Bernanke

Bernanke masterminded what is now seen as a successful strategy to lift the economy out of recession, unlock credit and stabilize financial markets in part by using unconventional and unprecedented lending programs.

Many on Wall Street and in academic circles believed that

he would therefore be the best choice to lead the country into a sustainable recovery and would be in the best position to figure out when and how to reel in the trillions of dollars pumped into the economy to battle the crisis.

"Wall Street can rest a little easier now," said Chris Rupkey, an economist at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi. "Having a new chairman come in at this late date would put the Fed-engineered solution to both the recovery and the exit strategy at risk."

Obama plans to make the announcement on Tuesday morning on Martha's Vineyard, where he is vacationing

for the week with his family. Bernanke is expected to be at his side. A senior administration official discussed the nomination on the condition of anonymity because it was not yet public.

In remarks prepared for the announcement, Obama praised Bernanke for leading the country through the meltdown and, with his expertise on the Great Depression, helping to prevent a crisis rivaling that of the 1930s.

"Ben approached a financial system on the verge of collapse with calm and wisdom, with bold action and outside-the-box thinking that has helped put the brakes on our economic free-fall," Obama said in prepared remarks obtained by the AP.

Reader's Digest files for bankruptcy

Reader's Digest Association Inc., publisher of the iconic general interest magazine that began gracing American homes in 1922 and now reaches a worldwide audience of 130 million, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Monday as it faces falling print circulation in the Internet age and looming debt payments.

Known for its heartwarming stories about American life as other publications moved toward edgier fare, the company's flagship Reader's Digest magazine has seen its U.S. circulation drop from a peak of more than 17 million in the 1970s to just above 8 million last year.

Magnifying the publishing world's woes is an advertising slump that already has led to the closing of several high-profile magazines, including Conde Nast's Portfolio, Domi-

no and Blender.

But Reader's Digest CEO Mary Berner has said that ad pages for the company's U.S. magazines are down less than 6 percent through the September editions. The publications' down-home feel instead of a high reliance on luxury and high-income tastes has an added attraction to advertisers in a recession that has hurt much of print media.

She noted that the company had several successful ventures, such as the magazine Everyday with Rachael Ray and cooking site AllRecipes.com. Berner, however, cited problems with two underperforming properties the company agreed to sell last year: Books Are Fun Ltd., a company that sells books at events and book fairs, and QSP, which assists with fundraising for schools and youth groups.

dealers trying to send in their sales agreements at the last minute. Under the original plan, those deals that weren't submitted on time wouldn't be repaid, leaving many dealers fearful that they would be left on the hook for clunker sales they made.

Stocks pause from recent gains, financials retreat

NEW YORK (AP)—Investors slowed their hectic buying of stocks Monday, leaving the major indexes little changed after a four-day advance. Stocks pulled back from early highs as financials, which have been surging lately, retreated. Meanwhile, Treasury prices rallied ahead of

the next round of debt auctions. Analysts had expected a pause after stocks soared last week, lifting the Dow Jones industrials 370 points. The advance picked up momentum Friday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke declared that the economy is on the verge of recovery. "I think people still believe there are signs of recovery here, but it doesn't hurt to take a little bit of profits," said Alan Villalon, senior research analyst at First American Funds.

BofA defends Merrill bonus settlement

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Bank of America Corp. on Monday defended the fairness of a

proposed \$33 million settlement it struck with federal regulators over executive bonuses paid out by Merrill Lynch, according to a federal court filing. The Charlotte, N.C.-based bank, which has been under intense scrutiny for the \$3.6 billion in bonus payments made to Merrill Lynch executives earlier this year, maintained that the penalty it struck with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission this month represented a "constructive conclusion" to the situation.

Former athletes' adviser charged in Ponzi scheme

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Federal prosecutors have charged

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

	AUSTRALIA	4,427.60	Down 6.60	(-0.15%)
	HONG KONG	20,307.41	Down 228.53	(-1.11%)
	JAKARTA	2,372.79	Down 3.08	(-0.13%)
	TOKYO	10,506.78	Down 74.27	(-0.70%)
	K. LUMPUR	1,174.49	Up 10.70	(0.92%)
	MANILA	2,858.15	Down 1.03	(-0.04%)
	SINGAPORE	2,598.23	Down 14.10	(-0.54%)
	SEOUL	1,606.40	Down 5.82	(-0.36%)
	BANGKOK	654.23	Up 1.03	(0.16%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	9,509.28	3.32
NASDAQ	2,017.98	-2.92
S&P	1,025.57	-0.56

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1940
British Pound	0.6089
Canadian Dollar	1.0771
Chinese Renminbi	6.8317
Euro	0.6990
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7504
Indian Rupee	48.7500
Indonesian Rupiah	10,010.0000
Japanese Yen	94.0500
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5130
New Zealand Dollar	1.4587
Philippine Peso	48.5850
Singapore Dollar	1.4420
South Korean Won	1,247.1000
Swiss Franc	1.0607
Taiwan Dollar	32.8920
Thailand Baht	34.0300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press



BACK-TO-SCHOOL LAYAWAY

In this photo made Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, David Travis, store manager at Kmart in Conover, N.C., poses in a storage room with bags containing back to school supplies that customers have put on layaway. A record number of shoppers, shut off from credit and short on cash, are relying on Kmart's layaway program to pay for all of their kids' school needs, said Tom Aiello, a spokesman for Kmart's parent Sears Holdings Corp. Layaway allows shoppers to pay over time, interest-free, and pick up their merchandise when it's paid in full.

AP

Nation

Swine flu shot protection? Maybe by Thanksgiving

ATLANTA (AP)—It will likely be Thanksgiving before a significant number of Americans who get the swine flu vaccine are protected, health officials said Monday.

Roughly 50 million doses of vaccine are expected to be available by mid-October. But for those who get initial doses right away, that will only mark the beginning of a vaccination process that will take five or more weeks.

Here's why: Health officials believe most people will need two shots, spaced three weeks apart, and it will take a week or two after the second dose before immunity kicks in. That's five or six weeks in all.

That means large numbers of Americans

won't be fully immunized until Thanksgiving, said U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, speaking to reporters in Atlanta.

Health officials don't really know if that's good or bad news. Since it was first reported in April, swine flu has turned out to be not much more dangerous than seasonal flu, overall. Government experts say it may soon become just another variety of the flu, and perhaps will conform to the seasonal flu calendar—vaccinated against in the fall, suffered through every winter.

But swine flu cases have persisted through this summer, especially in camps and other places where kids congregate. It's possible

they will explode not long after kids return to schools and colleges this fall.

"Hopefully we will have a mild presentation this fall" with limited cases of serious illness and few deaths, Sebelius said during a visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Clinical trials started just this month to evaluate the new vaccine's safety and effectiveness, and the first substantial set of results is not expected until next month. Health officials presume there will be a fall campaign to encourage people to get swine flu vaccinations that will be called off only if something unexpected and alarming emerges in the clinical trials, CDC spokespeople said.

1,200 veterans wrongly told they got fatal disease

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)—Former Air Force Reservist Gale Reid received a letter from the Veterans Affairs Department that told her she had Lou Gehrig's disease, and she immediately put herself through a battery of painful, expensive tests. Five days later, the VA said its "diagnosis" was a mistake.

Letters were sent to 1,864 veterans about disability benefits for those with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, and a "small number" have contacted the VA indicating they received the letters in error, VA spokeswoman Katie Roberts said Monday night.

The National Gulf War Resource Center said Reid was among at least 1,200 veterans who received the letter, even though they hadn't been diagnosed with the illness. Veterans were initially suspicious, but still went through the agony of not knowing whether they had the degenerative disease, which typically kills people within five years.

The National Gulf War Resource Center said at least 2,500 letters informing veterans of disability benefits for ALS sufferers were sent, with almost half—some

1,200—a mistake. Those who received the letters have undiagnosed neurological disorders, according to the Gulf War veterans group, which provides information, support and referrals about illnesses to people who served in the military.

No one knows for sure exactly how many letters were mailed to veterans treated at VA hospitals and how many were a mistake.

"VA is immediately reviewing the individual claims files for all the recipients of this letter to identify those who received the notification in error," the VA said in a statement Monday night.

Former Army Sgt. Samuel Hargrove cried Sunday after opening his letter.

"I can't even describe the intensity of my feelings," said the father of two from Henderson, N.C. "With so many health issues that I already have, I didn't know how to approach my family with the news."

So, at first, he didn't. Hargrove later discovered the mistake after talking with fellow veterans in the resource center and online. He was angry, as is Reid.

"I've been through a week of hell, emotionally, physically and financially," she said.

Denise Nichols, vice president of the resource center, said her group has received calls and e-mails from panicked veterans in Alabama, Florida, Kansas, North Carolina, West Virginia and Wyoming.

"Our fear was this could push somebody over the edge," said Nichols, who worried the news could lead already fragile veterans to commit suicide. "We don't want that to happen."

Jim Bunker, president of the veterans group, said he talked to someone at the VA and was told the mistake was caused by a coding error. The VA uses more than 8,000 codes for various diseases and illnesses and veterans with undiagnosed neurological disorders, which can range from mild to severe.

When told about the VA's statement, Bunker said his group stood by its figures.

ALS is a rapidly progressive disease that attacks the nerve cells responsible for controlling voluntary muscles.

lice headquarters at city hall, and then the melee erupted.

Six more people were arrested at city hall, Reese said, and police called in reinforcements from surrounding cities. Some officers wore riot gear, and many planned to stay overnight to help maintain order.

The mayor said he wasn't sure what sparked the fracas.

"Everybody's trying to point the finger at everybody," he said.

Judson College, a church-affiliated women's school with about 300 students in downtown Marion, issued an alert asking students to stay out of the downtown area for 24 hours as a precaution.

SCHOOL EXPLOSION

Students, teachers and administrators from Hillsdale High School are evacuated in San Mateo, Calif., Monday, Aug. 24, 2009. A 17-year-old boy with a sword, chainsaw and explosive devices attached to his body was arrested Monday after he detonated two explosives at the Northern California high school, authorities said. The boy set off at least one of the explosive devices just after 8 a.m., said police Lt. Mike Brunicardi. No one was injured. The name of the boy, a former student at the high school, was not released because he is a minor, authorities said. The 1,200-student school was immediately evacuated after the blast and classes were canceled for the day.

AP

ACROSS THE NATION

Mother: Slain Okla. pastor 'just loved people'

ANADARKO, Okla. (AP)—A pastor who came alone to a small church in southwest Oklahoma every Sunday on the chance that someone would join her to pray was found slain inside the weathered building, police said Monday, but who would want to kill her was a mystery. Police found 61-year-old Carol Daniels of Oklahoma City dead about noon Sunday inside the Christ Holy Sanctified Church in Anadarko, housed in an A-frame building just a block from the police station in the town of about 6,600 people. Trauma to Daniels' body indicated foul play, said Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. An autopsy was to be done Monday.

Infants' remains found under Texas trailer porch

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The skeletal remains of two infants have been found in a box and a storage container under an abandoned mobile home porch in rural northern Texas—a year after another baby's remains were discovered in a suitcase in a nearby field, officials said Monday. The son of the land owner who rents mobile homes to several people on his 5-acre lot said he was cleaning Sunday when he found some bones in a box in a plastic bag and others in a plastic storage bin. Authorities plan to compare the infants' DNA samples to that of the other baby whose remains were found last year in a suitcase in a field on the same lot.

'Inhumane' CIA terror tactics spur criminal probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration launched a criminal probe Monday into "unauthorized ... inhumane" interrogations of terror suspects during President George W. Bush's war on terrorism, spurred by newly declassified revelations of CIA tactics including threats to kill one suspect's children and to force another to watch his mother sexually assaulted. At the same time, President Barack Obama ordered changes in future questioning of detainees, bringing in other agencies besides the CIA under direction of the FBI and supervised by his own national security adviser.

US resumes flying illegal immigrants to Mexico

PHOENIX (AP)—Immigration authorities are flying illegal immigrants deep into their native Mexico from Southern Arizona to discourage dangerous crossings in triple-digit desert heat. The twice-daily flights from Tucson to Mexico City are intended to keep immigrants away from border towns where they would likely run into smugglers who want to sneak them back into the U.S. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security flights began Saturday for the sixth straight summer and will end Sept. 28. Tucson is the only spot in this country where the flights depart. Arizona is the busiest illegal entry point into the U.S.

9 men in tuxedos charged in Boston beating death

BOSTON (AP)—Nine men who had just attended a funeral and were wearing tuxedos when they beat a man to death outside a nightclub were charged Monday with assault and battery, prosecutors said. Jose Alicea was beaten Friday after an argument and died of his injuries Monday, police said. Nine of his 12 attackers were wearing black tuxedos with red vests and red ties because they had been to the funeral of a friend killed last week in a motorcycle accident, they said. The 12 men had gone to the club to celebrate their friend's life, and Alicea was there with a small group of his friends. There was no problem inside the club, but as it was closing Alicea had a conversation with some of the men. The conversation escalated into a verbal altercation, with shouting and cursing from both sides, and then turned physical.

Fire, explosions at Detroit chemical factory

DETROIT (AP)—Explosions and a fire at a chemical factory Monday forced firefighters to evacuate employees and police to caution nearby residents to stay inside their homes. Several explosions were heard from inside Diversified Chemical Technologies Inc., where dense black smoke billowed from the blaze that began shortly after 3 p.m. Monday. No injuries were immediately reported and the fire appeared to be diminishing by early evening, with firefighters dousing the facility with water and foam. Detroit Police officers were circulating through the west side neighborhood asking people to stay inside their homes, although no residential evacuations were immediately ordered.



Asia

Report: NKorea invites Obama's top envoys

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea has invited top envoys of President Barack Obama to visit the communist nation next month in what would be the first nuclear negotiations between the two countries under his presidency, a news report said Tuesday.

North Korea recently invited Stephen Bosworth, special envoy to North Korea, and chief nuclear negotiator Sung Kim to Pyongyang, and the U.S. government is strongly considering sending them to the North next month, Seoul's JoongAng Ilbo daily reported.

There was not immediate response to the report from U.S. officials. Calls by The Associated Press to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul went unanswered.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Il has sent word that he wants to hold a summit with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak in the latest sign of easing tensions between the divided nations, news reports said Monday.

Kim's envoy proposed the summit during a rare meeting Sunday, and Lee told the envoy that he would be open to a summit if it is discuss North Korea's nuclear program, the South's mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo daily reported, citing an unidentified government official.

The Joong Ang report, citing an unidentified high-level diplomatic source in Washington, said the U.S. diplomats might be able to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il during

the visit, considering Pyongyang's recent conciliatory attitude.

Yonhap news agency also reported that the North has invited the two officials and that the U.S. is reviewing the offer.

Such a trip would mark the first nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea under the Obama administration.

Over the past year, North Korea had been stoking tensions with nuclear and missile tests while boycotting international nuclear talks. But in recent weeks, it has become markedly more conciliatory toward the U.S. and South Korea.

The North freed two American journalists following a trip to Pyongyang by former President Bill Clinton earlier this month.

Algorithms to stop fraud in medieval Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—In a largely illiterate country where donkeys delivered ballots to remote areas, Afghan officials say they are confident that algorithms, double-blind computer entries and other modern methods will catch 90 percent of the fraud from last week's presidential election.

Accusations of ballot box stuffing and voter intimidation have streamed

in to the independent Electoral Complaints Commission since Thursday's vote—most of them filed by President Hamid Karzai's main rival, ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

Forty-five of the complaints are serious enough that they could affect the election outcome, said Grant Kippen, the head of the U.N.-backed body.

Nevertheless, Ajmal Amin Rabmal, one of three experts overseeing the commission's computer monitoring, said he's confident his team can spot fraud cases, using techniques that hardly fit the image of a country where ballots were marked with the candidates' faces and symbols to help the 75 percent of Afghans who can't read and write.

'GOD IS GREAT!'

Dino Amor Pareja also known as Khalil Pareja, center, a ranking leader of the al-Qaida-linked terror group Rajah Solaiman Movement, shouts "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great!) as he is escorted to his detention cell following an announcement of his capture by Philippine National Police Chief Jesus Versoza, unseen, at Camp Crame at suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines Tuesday Aug. 25, 2009. Pareja, who carries a combined US\$100,000 reward for his capture from U.S. and Philippine governments, was arrested Friday in Marawi city in southern Philippines.

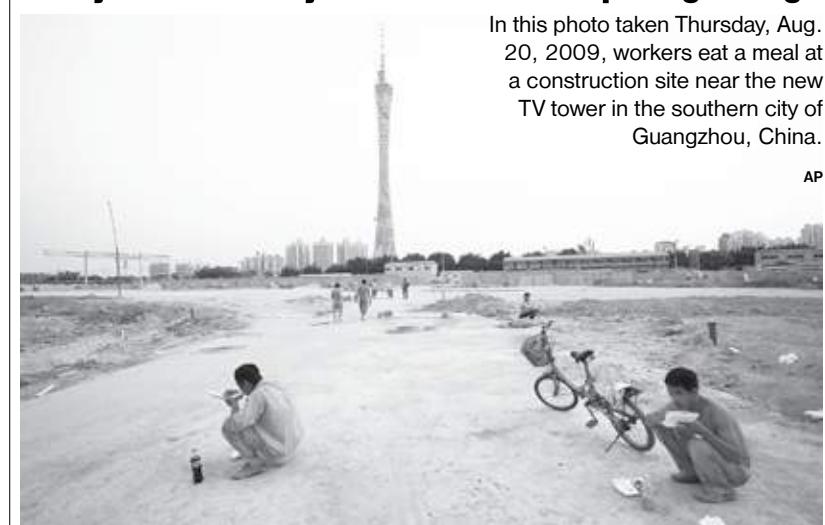
AP



Gritty Chinese city seeks to shed 'spitting' image

In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009, workers eat a meal at a construction site near the new TV tower in the southern city of Guangzhou, China.

AP



GUANGZHOU, China (AP)—Government-backed neighborhood groups are going door-to-door in south China's gritty business capital with a set of simple requests: Please stop spitting in public, cutting in bus lines and talking loudly in the streets.

It's all part of a campaign in Guangzhou, China's third-wealthiest metropolis, to win the coveted "Civilized City" award—an annual ritual that sparks months of frantic scrubbing and buffing in cities across China.

Women wearing red armbands patrol the streets and pick up cigarette butts. Volunteer crossing guards with yellow flags and whistles make sure people wait for green lights. Beggars, even those with legs withered by polio, are banished from their usual haunts on pedestrian bridges.

While some citizens remain skeptical of the cleanup drive, it jibes with Chinese leaders' goal of shifting away from the blind pursuit of blistering economic growth at any cost. They want to focus more on creating a spiffier, healthier, more cultured and harmonious society.

Each year, the central government

awards the prized designation to one or more cities, and it is a big deal for Guangzhou, once known as Canton, as it tries to shed a reputation for being dirty and crime-ridden. Next year, this historic port city of 10 million people hosts the Asian Games—the region's equivalent of the Olympics—that will draw 25,000 athletes, coaches and journalists from 45 countries.

"We have a saying: If you haven't been robbed, you're not a real Guangzhou person," said Wu Enwei, a 33-year-old businesswoman whose cell phone was snatched from her hand on the sidewalk a few years ago.

"The crime situation has improved, but I still think Beijing and Shanghai are much better," Wu said.

The civility campaign also highlights how the Communist Party still likes to indulge in often heavy-handed Big Brother social engineering, reaching deep into people's lives—or at least their living rooms—to try to mold the masses.

Beijing launched a similar campaign before the 2008 Olympics, trying to curb spitting, jumping ahead in line, littering and reckless driving.

ASIAN BRIEFS

11 miners dead in northern China mine blast

BEIJING (AP)—China's official Xinhua News Agency says 11 people have died in a coal mine gas blast in northern Shanxi province and three are missing. Xinhua says the explosion ripped through a mine shaft in Jinzhong city Monday morning. It says 16 miners were working underground at the time in the Xingguang Coal Industry Co. mine. Rescuers have rescued two workers and 11 bodies. They are still searching for the missing.

ADB approves \$500M stimulus loan for Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Asian Development Bank's board of directors has approved a \$500 million short-term loan for the Philippines to counter the global economic crisis, the bank said Monday. It is the first approval of a loan from the Manila-based lender's \$3 billion facility that is aimed at supporting developing economies as they increase fiscal spending in response to the economic crisis. To be eligible to

access the fund, developing member countries must be adversely affected by the global economic crisis, demonstrate sound economic policies and have a program to stimulate the economy amid the downturn.

Ruling party elder sees tough vote

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's finance minister said Tuesday the ruling party has lost support in Tokyo and is facing a voter revolt across the nation, suggesting his party could lose to the leading opposition party and fall from power for only the second time in 54 years.

The comment by Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano, one of the most senior members in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, follows a series of public opinion polls indicating the ruling party

will lose in a landslide to the opposition Democratic Party of Japan in parliamentary elections on Sunday.

SKorea seeks jail for disgraced cloning scientist

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Prosecutors demanded a four-year prison term

Monday for a South Korean scientist disgraced in a cloning scandal that shook the international scientific community and led to his trial on fraud and other charges. Hwang Woo-suk was fired from the prestigious Seoul National University after purported breakthroughs—including the claim of producing a human embryo through cloning and recovering stem cells from it—were deemed bogus in 2005, when a key paper was found to contain fake data.

Series of raids by Pakistan police foil attacks

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani authorities arrested 13 Islamist militants in separate raids that police said Monday foiled major terrorist attacks and provided clues to how drug sales to Asia and the Persian Gulf help fund the Taliban. Police seized heroin and bomb-making material in one bust in the southern city of Karachi, the country's commercial center and a hotbed of extremist activity. In the country's east, authorities captured a main Taliban recruiter of suicide bombers in one of two raids.

Caning of Malaysian woman who drank beer postponed

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The first woman in Muslim-majority Malaysia to face caning for drinking beer was reprieved Monday because of the holy month of Ramadan. Her family said she would rather get the thrashing with a rattan cane now and put the ordeal behind her. Islamic officials had taken Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, a 32-year-old mother of two, into custody and were driving her to a women's prison for the caning when they abruptly turned around and sent her back to her family home in northern Malaysia.

More than 200 face trial for ethnic riots in China

BEIJING (AP)—China will reportedly put more than 200 people on trial this week for alleged involvement in the country's worst ethnic violence in decades, an apparent move to draw a line under the episode but one that experts say is unlikely to address grievances that spawned the unrest. The hearings will take place in Urumqi, the capital

of Xinjiang and the site of the violence last month that killed nearly 200 people and injured another 1,700, the state-run China Daily reported Monday. The rioting pitted indigenous Turkic-speaking Muslim Uighurs against members of China's dominant Han ethnic group, who have migrated to the far western region in droves.

Relatives accuse Pakistan forces in Swat killings

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—Nearly three months after Pakistan retook the Swat Valley from the Taliban, bloodied corpses are still turning up on the streets. This time, the victims are suspected militants—and the killers are alleged to be security forces. The army and the police deny the accusations, which the leading Pakistani human rights watchdog says are credible. The killings are a sign of the troubles still facing the valley, even as U.S. officials cite the offensive—which is now winding down—as a success in Islamabad's campaign against al-Qaeda and Taliban militants threatening both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

World

Athens fires recede but officials still wary



A firefighter sprays water at a burning forest near Nea Makri, north of Athens, on Monday, Aug. 24, 2009. AP

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A massive wildfire that destroyed homes and forests receded Monday as a multinational airborne effort beat back flames that at one point threatened Athens' northern suburbs and raged near the ancient battleground at Marathon.

As winds died down late Monday, Greek Fire Brigade spokesman Yiannis Kappakis said there were “no significant active fronts” left of the fire, which for days has sent a pall of smoke over the capital, plunging parts of it into a brown half-light.

Experts warned it would take generations to replace the lost forests, many

Kappakis said more than 1,000 firefighters and soldiers would remain on duty in case the blazes revived.

“The danger of the fires flaring up again is not yet over,” he said. Since Saturday the fire has razed some 21,000 hectares (51,890 acres) of pine forest, olive grove, brush and farmland, according to the European Commission’s European Forest Fire Information System. Greek officials say 150 homes were damaged.

Parties to strengthen his position. Because his Dawa party is relatively small, he has never been able to rely on a loyal political base. Instead, he has developed a reputation as a strong leader by crushing militias loyal to anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra.

The Shiite prime minister’s efforts to win public confidence by portraying himself as a champion of security have taken a battering in recent weeks.

A wave of horrific bombings has called

into question the government’s ability

of which were burnt beyond the hope of natural regrowth.

Thousands of people were forced to flee their homes, and elderly nuns were evacuated from the threatened convent of Saint Ephrem near the coastal town of Nea Makri—carrying the saint’s relics with them.

“The flames were 30 meters (100 feet) high,” said one of the nuns evacuated, wearing a black habit and a surgical mask to ward off the smoke and grit. “Thankfully they came and rescued us.”

At least five people were treated

Shiite groups form new alliance excluding Iraqi PM

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iranian-backed Shiite parties that helped propel Iraq’s prime minister into power three years ago dumped him Monday as their candidate for re-election, forming a new alliance to contest the January vote.

The move dealt a blow to Nouri al-Maliki’s chances to keep his job next year and set the stage for a showdown between competing factions in the Shiite coalition that had dominated Iraq’s government since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Al-Maliki now faces pressure to make a deal with minority Sunni

parties to strengthen his position. Because his Dawa party is relatively small, he has never been able to rely on a loyal political base. Instead, he has developed a reputation as a strong leader by crushing militias loyal to anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra.

The Shiite prime minister’s efforts to win public confidence by portraying himself as a champion of security have taken a battering in recent weeks.

A wave of horrific bombings has called

into question the government’s ability

to protect the Iraqi people two months after most U.S. forces pulled out of urban areas.

In the latest violence, bombs attached to two buses en route from Baghdad exploded less than an hour apart near the mainly Shiite city of Kut on Monday, killing at least 11 people and wounding 20, police and hospital officials said. Local police chief Brig. Gen. Raed Shakir Jawdat said the explosives were detonated with timers.

Monday’s political announcement—made with fanfare at a news conference—represents a major realignment.

Egypt unveils restoration of famous synagogue

CAIRO (AP)—The head of antiquities on Thursday unveiled restoration work under way at one Egypt’s most famous synagogues, a project he denied was meant to assuage Jewish anger at the country’s culture minister.

Culture Minister Hosni Farouk, who is campaigning to be the next head of the U.N. office that promotes cultural diversity, outraged many Jews with his comments in April 2008 vowing to burn any Israeli books found in Egypt’s famed Library of Alexandria.

The Egyptian government has rallied around the 71-year-old culture minister, but the country’s head of antiquities, Zahi Hawass, said the decision to restore the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue in Cairo had nothing to do with Hosni’s candidacy.

“I believe these rumors were started to hurt Farouk Hosni’s bid to become the next director general of UNESCO,” said Hawass, who reports to the culture minister. “The Jewish monuments are Egyptian monuments ... they are part of



An antiquities worker performs restoration work on the Moses Ben Maimon Synagogue in the neighborhood of Old Cairo, in Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, Aug. 20, 2009. AP

us and part of our culture.”

The synagogue was named after Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon, a famous physician, philosopher and Torah scholar who was born in Cordoba, Spain, in 1135 A.D. He eventually moved to Cairo, where he died in 1204 and was buried inside the synagogue. The remains of the rabbi, who is known in the West as Moses Maimonides, were later transferred to the Holy Land.

for burns and several dozen reported breathing problems, but no injuries were serious, the Health Ministry said.

Other major fires still burned near the coastal town of Porto Germeno, northwest of Athens, and near villages on the

Evia island, east of the capital.

Nineteen water-dropping planes and helicopters—including aircraft from Italy, France and Cyprus—unleashed some 14,000 tons of water on Monday that helped contain the biggest blaze near Athens.

WORLD BRIEFS

Malawi child tobacco workers exposed to nicotine

BLANTYRE, Malawi (AP)—Children picking tobacco in the fields of Malawi for consumers far beyond the African country’s borders are being poisoned as they absorb up to two cigarette packs’ worth of nicotine each day, a children’s rights organization said Monday. The “extremely high levels of nicotine poisoning” produces not only nausea, headaches, dizziness, difficulty in breathing and other symptoms but “long-lasting changes in brain structure and function,” London-based Plan International said in a report. It noted that large-tobacco production has shifted from the United States to developing countries like Malawi, where “children are being exposed to exploitative and hazardous working conditions.”

Dormitory fire in Tanzania kills 12 schoolgirls

ARUSHA, Tanzania (AP)—A fire that ripped through a dormitory in rural Tanzania, killing 12 schoolgirls and wounding 23 others, likely began after a student fell asleep with a candle burning, officials said Monday. The victims who died Saturday night were between the ages of 13 and 16 in the rural Iringa district, some 285 miles (460 kilometers) southwest of Dar es Salaam. They are due to be buried Tuesday near their school. Iringa’s Regional Police Commander, Evarist Mangalla, said preliminary investigations indicate the fire was caused by a candle after a student fell asleep studying.

Mexico catches leading member of La Familia cartel

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexi-

can army said Monday that soldiers captured Luis Ricardo Magana, who prosecutors describe as a leading member of the violent La Familia drug cartel. Magana is allegedly on the level of cartel leader Servando “La Tuta” Gomez and purportedly controlled methamphetamine shipments to the United States for the gang, Gen. Luis Arturo Oliver said. Gomez is one of Mexico’s most-wanted fugitives and is blamed for retaliation attacks on federal police in the cartel’s home state of Michoacan in western Mexico. Oliver said Magana was captured Sunday in the Pacific coast port of Manzanillo along with five men believed to be his bodyguards. Magana was known by the alias “19 1/2”—traffickers frequently use codes and numbers similar to radio call signs to identify themselves.

Argentine police discover 4 tons of ephedrine

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Federal police on Monday uncovered four tons (4,200 kilograms) of ephedrine in oil drums and boxes to be sent to Mexico and the United States. The lead investigator called it the largest illegal shipment of the methamphetamine precursor ever seized in Argentina, worth millions. The ephedrine, was imported from India and China, and discovered with the help of U.S. Drug Enforcement and Interpol agents who have advised police investigating a group of Argentines and Mexican traffickers, Commissioner Miguel Castro told The Associated Press. Castro, superintendent of investigations for the federal police, said the boxes were hidden in a furniture warehouse and the drums were found in another warehouse where one employee was arrested.

It rhymes this time: Slang used at London ATMs

LONDON (AP)—You’d better get ready to use your loaf if you want to get your hands on some bread. Over the next three months a cluster of East London ATMs will be offering customers the chance to withdraw cash using written prompts in Cockney rhyming slang, the area’s colorful and often impenetrable dialect.

ATMs run by a company called Bank Machine offer a language option allowing customers to enter their “Huckleberry Finn” instead of their PIN, and rather worryingly informs them that the machine is reading their “bladder of lard” at a prompt about examining their card.

The origins of Cockney rhyming slang are obscure. It is thought to have been used by market traders who needed a way of communicating without tipping off their customers.

It works by replacing a word with a short rhyming phrase. For example: “Money” becomes “bread and honey,”

which in turn is shortened to “bread.” Similarly, “head” becomes “loaf of bread,” and then just simply “loaf.”

Few use the slang with any regularity now although most Britons know a few common phrases, such as “trouble and strife” for wife and “apples and pears” for stairs.

Gabriella Alexander, who made a withdrawal from an ATM, near Spitalfields Market, said the stunt was fun. But she added that that withdrawing “sausage and mash”—or cash—“made me a little uneasy.”

Slaney Wright, a 32-year-old charity worker, attempted to withdraw money from the ATM but visibly tensed up when she realized the machine was talking to her in Cockney slang. She immediately canceled the transaction and ripped the card out of the machine.

“It looks like someone’s been messing with it,” she said.

Campus Life

What do you look forward to this new school year?



By ANGELA MAMARIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Our school will be going through some new changes this year, so we're looking forward to that. We just got a new principal so we're hoping she's open to the things that we, as a student body, enjoy. We are also excited about the new library and the new sports equipment we just got this school year. We didn't have those things last year, so that's why we're pretty excited to use them."

**—Lauren, 15, top, and
Kelly Hofsneider, 13, bottom**
Grace Christian Academy



"I'm excited for the new school activities, the upcoming school events, and the fundraisers that my class will be able to do this year."

—Edward Kim, 15
Grace Christian Academy



"I had a great time during basketball season last year, so I can't wait for them to start again this year. I also enjoyed volleyball games and I'm excited for the upcoming academic competitions. I really liked Mock Trial, so I might join that again this year."

—Aira Jaye Batallo, 14
Grace Christian Academy



"The field trips. They're really exciting and they give us time to have fun with our friends and teachers. We went to World Resort last year, so I'm hoping we can do that again this year."

—Brandon Lorenz, 14
Grace Christian Academy



"I really like the basketball and volleyball seasons that happen each school year. It helps me become active, but also gives me an opportunity to communicate with others."

—Noel Miguel, 14
Grace Christian Academy



"I look forward to seeing my old friends and also probably the chance to make new ones. I'm excited to meet some new teachers, attend any school events, and even try out any interesting classes."

—Rita Doca, 14
Marianas High School



"I like going to school because I get to see my friends once again and have a great time with them."

—Josh Lizama, 9
Ladera International
School of Saipan

Harvard, Princeton top college rankings again

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Perennial contenders Harvard and Princeton share the top spot in the latest edition of the influential U.S. News & World Report university rankings. Williams heads the list of liberal arts colleges while Dartmouth wins a new category ranking commitment to undergraduate teaching.

The latest edition of the contentious but closely followed "America's Best Colleges" appears online and in print Thursday.

Last year, Princeton had surrendered the top spot to Harvard after eight straight years at least tied for No. 1. This year the Ivy League rivals are followed by No. 3 Yale and a four-way tie for No. 4: Cal Tech, MIT, Stanford and the University of Pennsylvania.

The ranking formula takes account of

factors such as SAT scores, peer reputation, selectivity and alumni giving.

As usual, there are few major moves up or down among colleges this year, but the rankings remain a hot topic of debate among educators. While few openly embrace the idea of numerically ranking colleges, some call the rank-

ON THE NET

<http://www.usnews.com>
<http://www.forbes.com>
<http://www.WhatWillTheyLearn.com>

ings a helpful consumer tool. But many others consider the practice harmful for both students and colleges.

Critics argue rankings pressure colleges to focus on boosting their scores in various categories, instead of improving their teaching. That debate was reignited earlier this year when

a former Clemson University administrator described the school's coordinated efforts to move up the list.

There are also charges of gaming the system. Clemson's president acknowledged he ranked his own school higher than any other university when he responded to the magazine's peer review questionnaire—a survey that accounts for 25 percent of a school's score. Some critics assume such cheerleading is widespread; the magazine keeps the surveys themselves confidential but says it has safeguards against "strategic voting."

It didn't help much: Clemson ranks No. 61 among national universities—the same as last year.

U.S. News is the most closely watched ranking of undergraduate programs, but it has a growing number of imitators—with very different ideas



The latest edition of the contentious but closely followed "America's Best Colleges" appears online and in print Thursday.

about what makes a top college.

Rankings recently published by Forbes.com, for instance, had the

U.S. Military Academy at West Point ranked first, followed by Princeton and Cal Tech.

Life & Style

Capital culture: Another Emanuel in the spotlight

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP NATIONAL WRITER

His brother Rahm is one of the most influential men in U.S. politics, the right-hand man to President Barack Obama. The other, Ari, is one of the very top power players in Hollywood.

And Ezekiel Emanuel?

He's the REALLY accomplished one, some say.

One of the nation's most prominent bioethicists, Ezekiel Emanuel has a master's degree in biochemistry from Oxford. A medical degree and a Ph.D. in political philosophy from Harvard. He's written or co-written seven books, won numerous awards, and heads the clinical bioethics department at the National Institutes of Health. And he's currently on detail to the White House, as a health policy adviser at the Office of Management and Budget.

Such accomplishments might normally make one the family star. But in the Emanuel clan, which features one current chief of staff to the president (that would be Rahm) and a mogul who inspired the Jeremy Piven character in HBO's "Entourage" (that would be Ari), he's naturally been a bit overshadowed.

Until the last few weeks, that is.

The sometimes ugly health

care debate has dragged Ezekiel Emanuel very reluctantly into the spotlight, as opponents of Obama's proposed reform have seized on snippets of his past writings to bolster their charge that he and the administration advocate a system where bureaucrats—on what former Gov. Sarah Palin has famously called "death panels"—would play God, ruling on whether ailing Grandma deserves medical care.

The accusations have been widely debunked as distortions of Emanuel's and the administration's views. Still, they persist, leaving Emanuel both stunned and hurt.

"I'm completely dumbfounded," he said in a telephone interview last week. "I've been in academic disputes before, but I never thought I'd be disparaged on Sunday morning talk shows and in the papers, being distorted in ways that can only be described as willful and intentional."

The irony, he says, is that he's long been a vocal opponent of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide. What he does advocate are living wills, and voluntary counseling sessions that address end-of-life issues—both as a means to improve end-of-life care.

A fellow bioethicist says Palin and others couldn't have picked a less appropriate target.

"If anything, Zeke has always

gone to the other extreme, being very aggressive in trying to help people stay alive," says George Annas, a professor of health law and bioethics at the Boston University School of Public Health. "This has been totally insane."

Emanuel, an oncologist by specialty, says he began focusing in the earliest stages of his career on trying to improve care for the dying. "Almost no one was doing this," he says. "I was told at medical school that this would be a quick end to my career."

"But I worked pretty hard and against the odds to improve end-of-life care," he says. "And so to have that record and that work completely perverted—it's pretty shocking, and it's also very, very hurtful."

Emanuel fully realizes he's being targeted because "I happen to be my brother's brother." Also, he says, he's got an extremely long paper trail. "So I'm a convenient target," he says.

Emanuel and his brothers grew up in Wilmette, Ill. (a sister came later, when the boys were teenagers). Amazingly, Emanuel says, Rahm was the calmest of the boys—which seems rather stunning to those who've heard about "Rahmbo" sending a dead fish to a Democratic pollster he was angry with. Or stabbing a restaurant table with a dinner knife and shouting "Dead!" as he rattled off names of Demo-



Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel heads the clinical bioethics department at the National Institutes of Health.

crats he considered disloyal.

"Rahm was the peacemaker, the mediator between myself and Ari," Emanuel says. One gets the sense that the battles were intense.

Although he describes himself as "the goody-goody of the family," the three brothers share a brash nature, Emanuel says: "No one would describe me as reserved." And a healthy self-regard: "I'm not an obscure bioethicist." But they share much more than that, he adds.

"We are pretty resilient," he says. "We've been knocked down a lot and gotten up. We're all high-energy. We've had elements of leadership qualities, and we have the ability to have a strategic overall vision and understand what's technically

needed to get there."

While Rahm is almost always in the spotlight, Ari was front-page news this spring when his Endeavor talent agency merged with the William Morris Agency, leaving him at the top of a huge new agency—a "superagent," as he's usually called. And as "Entourage" viewers know, Ari Gold doesn't get where he is by being a softie.

"However you look at it, my two brothers are incredibly influential people in American society," Emanuel says—"way more influential than a computer-pecking bioethicist."

Emanuel is blunt about his critics' attacks.

The "death panel" idea is "an outright lie, a complete fabrication," he says. "And the paradox, the hypocrisy, the contradiction is that many of the people who are attacking me now supported living wills and consultations with doctors about end-of-life care, before they became against it for political reasons."

Emanuel says he has no idea whether his unwelcome role in the current uproar is on the way toward petering out. It helps, he says, that he has no TV at home—despite being the brother of a top Hollywood agent.

Then Palin cited Emanuel on her Facebook page, charging that his views put people like her son, Trig, who has Down syndrome, in danger.

These and other critics have cited two Emanuel articles. In one, written in 1996, he says he was merely analyzing different ethical philosophies, as academics are wont to do, and not advocating. In another, earlier this year in the medical journal *Lancet*, he and his co-authors discussed how to make difficult choices when resources are scarce, such as organs for transplant.

Such decisions, Emanuel says, are made in the medical community every day: Witness the recent talk about who should get H1N1 vaccine first.

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So has this been his proverbial 15 minutes of fame?

"I sure hope not," he says. "Because it feels more like 15 minutes of attack."

'Vogue' editor Wintour critiques Letterman's socks

NEW YORK (AP)—No aspect of fashion escapes the sharp eye of "Vogue" queen Anna Wintour, including David Letterman's socks.

Wintour, taping an appearance Monday on Letterman's "Late Show," labeled them "interesting."

Letterman, who called himself a "dope" who doesn't know anything about fashion, flashed a view of his gray stockings and invited Wintour to "take a look at those, honey."

Wintour, making her first appearance on CBS' "Late Show," is featured in the new documentary "The September Issue" about production of the 2007 issue that—arriving before the recession—was the biggest in *Vogue*'s 117-year history.

The magazine editor made light of her image as an imperious and tough boss, but acknowledged that she is direct with her staff.

"Well, I'm very decisive and I try and give very clear direction to the people that I'm working with, and sometimes, unfortunately, they don't hear the answer that they would like to hear," Wintour said, according to a CBS transcript.

She's not "always warm and cuddly," she added, but she appreciates excellent work.

"Have you ever put anybody in a headlock?" Letterman replied, drawing audience laughter.

"Maybe you?" Wintour said.



Wintour

During the industry's "challenging time," she said.

Letterman asked what a person whose fashion budget was slashed to \$20 by economic hardship might do with the money.

"Well, you could buy lipstick," Wintour replied.

Roland Joffe filming Opus Dei movie in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—Roland Joffe knows his latest film will be controversial, but says it is not meant as a response to "The Da Vinci Code," whose bad guys were members of the Opus Dei movement of the Roman Catholic Church.

Joffe is in Argentina directing a biopic of Opus Dei founder Jose Maria Escrivá de Balaguer, who sided with Francisco Franco during the

Spanish Civil War and allegedly spoke positively of Adolf Hitler. The church dismissed the controversies before Escrivá was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II.

Joffe has twice been nominated for Oscars, including for "The Mission," which dealt with leftist Jesuit priests. Now he is exploring the church's most conservative members.

Opus Dei is financing the

film, "There be Dragons," but Joffe said Monday it isn't a propaganda project. Opus Dei members on the set say the British director has "creative space" to make the film he wants.

The city of Lujan near Buenos Aires is standing in for 1930s Madrid in the movie, whose cast includes actors Charlie Cox as Escrivá and the latest Bond girl, Olga Kurylenko.

Obamas' Filipina chef at home with healthy ways

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—For the White House chef, serving homegrown vegetables straight from the garden is just like preparing food in her native Philippines—healthy and simple.

Filipino-American Cristeta Pasia-Comerford, the first woman and first minority to serve as the executive chef in the White House, credited the first lady for making sure her family eats steamed, organic vegetables from the garden Michelle Obama planted in April.

"Mrs. Obama is a very hands-on person when it comes ... to knowing healthy meals for the family," Comerford told a news conference Monday in Manila.

She is one of three to be honored this year by the Bank of the Philippines as an outstanding Filipino overseas. The honor will be formally awarded on Tuesday.

The naturalized American said that picking food from the garden reminds her of summers spent at her grandmother's house in the Philippines' Bulacan province.

"They like simple meals, they like simple food," she



Cristeta Pasia Comerford, the first woman and Asian to hold the position of Executive Chef for the White House, gestures during a news conference following her receiving an award given by a Philippine bank for her outstanding achievement in culinary arts at Manila's financial district of Makati city Monday, Aug. 24, 2009 in the Philippines.

said of the first family.

The first lady had said earlier that she and Comerford shared a "perspective on the importance of healthy eating and healthy families."

The chef refused to answer specific questions about the

Obamas' favorite foods and eating habits.

Comerford, who also served under former President George W. Bush, studied French cooking in Vienna, Austria, and specializes in ethnic and American cuisine.

AP Source: Coroner rules Jackson's death homicide

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's death has been ruled a homicide caused by a mix of drugs meant to treat insomnia, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press, while his personal doctor told investigators he was actually trying to wean the King of Pop off the powerful anesthetic that did him in.

Forensic tests found the anesthetic propofol combined with at least two sedatives to kill Jackson, according to the official, who spoke Monday on condition of anonymity because the findings have not been publicly released. Based on those tests, the Los Angeles County Coroner has ruled the death a homicide, the official said.

The coroner's homicide ruling does not necessarily mean a crime was committed. But it makes it more likely criminal charges will be filed against Dr. Conrad Murray, the Las Vegas cardiologist who was caring for the pop star when he died June 25 in a rented Los Angeles mansion.

Through his lawyer, Murray has said

he administered nothing that "should have" killed Jackson.

Murray told investigators that Jackson stopped breathing about 10 minutes after he relented and finally gave in to his patient's demands for propofol around 10:40 a.m., following a night-long regimen of sedatives that did not work, according to court documents unsealed Monday.

A search warrant affidavit unsealed in Houston, where Los Angeles police took materials from one of Murray's clinics last month as part of their manslaughter investigation, includes a detailed account of what detectives say Murray told them. Manslaughter is homicide without malice or premeditation.

The doctor said he'd been treating Jackson for insomnia for about six weeks with 50 milligrams of propofol every night via an intravenous drip, the affidavit said. Murray said he feared Jackson was becoming addicted to the anesthetic, which is supposed to be used only in hospitals and other advanced

medical settings, so he had lowered the dose to 25 milligrams and added the sedatives lorazepam and midazolam.

That combination had succeeded in helping Jackson sleep two days prior to his death. So the next day, Murray told detectives, he cut off the propofol—and Jackson fell asleep with just the two sedatives.

Then around 1:30 a.m. on June 25, starting with a 10-milligram tablet of Valium, Murray said he tried a series of drugs instead of propofol to make Jackson sleep. The injections included two milligrams of lorazepam around 2 a.m., two milligrams of midazolam around 3 a.m., and repeats of each at 5 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. respectively.

They didn't work.

Murray told detectives that around 10:40 a.m. he gave in to Jackson's "repeated demands/requests" for propofol, which the singer called his "milk," according to the affidavit. He adminis-

tered 25 milligrams of the white-colored liquid—a relatively small dose—and finally, Jackson fell asleep.

Murray remained with the sedated Jackson for about 10 minutes, then left for the bathroom, the affidavit said. Less than two minutes later, Murray returned—and found Jackson had stopped breathing.

Cell phone records show three separate calls from Murray's phone for between 11:18 a.m. and 12:05 p.m., the affidavit said. It's not clear who received the calls. Murray had told authorities he was administering CPR during that time.

In a statement posted late Monday on his firm's Web site, Murray's attorney Edward Chernoff questioned the timeline as depicted in the affidavit, calling it "police theory."

"Dr. Murray simply never told investigators that he found Michael Jackson at 11:00 a.m. not breathing," Chernoff said. He declined to comment on the

homicide ruling, saying, "We will be happy to address the coroner's report when it is officially released."

The coroner's office has withheld its autopsy findings, citing a request from police to wait until their investigation is complete.

It is no surprise that such a combination of medications could kill someone, said Dr. David Zvara, anesthesia chairman at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"All those drugs act in synergy with each other," Zvara said. Adding propofol on top of the other sedatives could have "tipped the balance" by depressing Jackson's breathing and ultimately stopping his heart.

The 25 milligrams of propofol "is not a whopping amount," said Lee Cantrell, director of the San Diego division of the California Poison Control System. It was the cocktail of the other sedatives, known as benzodiazepines, that "may have been the trigger that pushed him over the edge," Cantrell said.



Jackson

Message of Appreciation

*From the bottom of our Hearts,
we the family of our beloved*

Victorino Tudela Borja

better known as "Tun Bino"

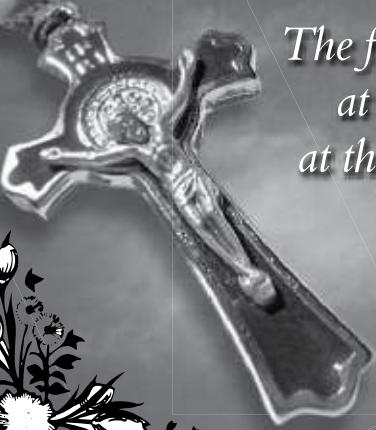
would like to extend our most heartfelt Na Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and most profound and deepest gratitude to all of our families and friends for all the love, thoughtful gestures, kindness, prayers, and most especially for your presence at the Eucharistic celebration, Nightly Rosaries and Daily Masses.

To each and everyone who joined us in our time of grief, those not able to be with us and have contacted us from a far or have thought of us in their prayers. Si Yu'us Maase.

The final ninth day of mass will be on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Immediately after the mass, breakfast will be served at the Chamorro House Apartment next to Kristo Rai Church. Please join us.

God Bless.

From the Children, Grandchildren and Family.



Murder mystery ends with suicide in Canadian hotel



This August 2009 photo provided by TMZ, shows Jasmine Fiore, right, and her husband Ryan Alexander Jenkins in Las Vegas.

BUENA PARK, Calif. (AP)—Like so many things in Hollywood, Ryan Jenkins' life was not as it seemed.

The wealthy and handsome son of a well-known Canadian architect had recently finished taping appearances on two reality shows when he checked into a luxury oceanside hotel on Aug. 13 in sun-splashed San Diego with a former model in tow.

Less than 48 hours later, the

woman was dead and Jenkins had gone from a sweet-talking, suave contestant on VH1's "Megan Wants a Millionaire" to the prime suspect in a gruesome—and mysterious—murder.

The saga culminated Sunday when Jenkins was found dead of a suicide, hanging by a belt from a coat rack in a run-down Canadian motel. Now, authorities on both sides of the border are scrambling to answer ques-

tions about the murder of Jasmine Fiore and learn the details of Jenkins' last days.

Authorities have still not recovered Fiore's car, a white Mercedes-Benz, and they believe it could be the place where Jenkins killed Fiore or where he mutilated her, cutting off her fingers and pulling out her teeth.

"We're trying to determine if that vehicle was the crime scene, if it transported the body

or if it was where the murder occurred," said Buena Park police Sgt. William Kohanek. "We're not able to just exclude anyone else from being involved. We're just not able to say that yet."

The final months of Jenkins' life were not short of drama.

Jenkins left a real estate job in his native Calgary earlier this year to pursue a Hollywood career and found some success. He was recently a contestant on the VH1 reality show "Megan Wants a Millionaire," in which wealthy young men tried to win over a materialistic blonde. An episode featuring Jenkins aired the same time that police sought him for Fiore's murder.

Jenkins played a prominent

role in the episode, renting an Aston Martin and wining and dining the star of the show at a French restaurant. "A sexy car for a sexy girl," he told Megan Hauserman before whisking her off to the high-end restaurant.

"I'm so James Bond and I'm gonna rock it," said Jenkins, who also was a participant in an as-yet-unaired competitive reality series, "I Love Money 3." VH1 said Monday it was canceling the show.

Jenkins and Fiore met in Las Vegas in March, shortly after Jenkins finished taping for "Megan Wants a Millionaire," and they married on March 18, according to court documents. The couple sepa-

rated shortly afterward, but had reportedly reconciled.

Lisa Lepore told The Associated Press last week that her daughter had the marriage annulled in May. However, there were no court records of an annulment in either Nevada, where the couple was married, or in Los Angeles County, where they most recently lived.

Friends said Fiore was a model who worked mainly in Las Vegas and Los Angeles, doing gigs such as being bodypainted at parties. She also was an aspiring actress and singer and had a bit part in a small 2008 horror science-fiction movie, "The Abandoned," according to the Internet Movie Database.

Miss Universe says crown fulfills improbable goal



AP
Miss Universe 2009 Stefania Fernandez, of Venezuela, poses at the Atlantis Resort in Nassau, Bahamas, Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—The 2009 Miss Universe says her title fulfills a lifelong dream—and an improbable one for a girl who finished last in one of her first beauty pageants.

Stefania Fernandez, an 18-year-old Venezuelan, said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press that despite the rocky start, she continued competing in order to keep busy.

"I don't like to be at home doing nothing," Fernandez said. "I entered the world of 'misses,'

and by chance life kept rewarding me bit by bit."

She moved from her hometown of Merida to the city of San Cristobal two years ago to pursue her increasingly successful pageant career, which culminated Sunday night when she edged the runner-up from the Dominican Republic to become the new Miss Universe.

Fernandez's win made Venezuela the first country to claim the title two years in a row, after Dayana Mendoza was

the new Miss Universe for \$4.6 million

to rest at the cemetery in 1962.

Bidding for the auction started at \$500,000 on Aug. 14. The final bid was \$4,602,100.

The Los Angeles Times reported earlier this month that the seller was Elsie Poncher, who was putting her late husband's crypt up for auction to help pay off the \$1.6 million mortgage on her Beverly Hills home.

Poncher told the newspaper that her husband, Richard Poncher, bought the crypt from Monroe's former husband, Joe DiMaggio, during his 1954 di-

measures, but I trust that little by little, Venezuelans will start understanding each other and try to make the country better. We are trying to communicate more with each other."

Fernandez will spend the next year traveling the world as an ambassador for the pageant, lending her celebrity to causes such as AIDS awareness.

Afterward she plans to go to college and specialize in communications, and is also interested in pursuing English and French.

"My house is covered with photos of me from Miss Venezuela and Miss Universe," Fernandez said. "But I promised my dad that my university degree would be up there too."

Jolene Mason, the cemetery's general manager, told the newspaper there is one empty crypt left in the mausoleum where Monroe is buried, available for \$250,000 and located two spots above the actress and to the left.

A message left for Poncher was not returned Monday. But she earlier said that, when she sells the crypt, she'll put her husband's remains in the one reserved for her, and when her time comes, she'll be cremated.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

**† GONZALO
QUITUGUA
SANTOS**



Wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to those who provided our family with love, support and prayers in our time of sorrow.

Our special thanks to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Noli, Fr. Celso & Fr. Nonoy, the altar servers, our prayer leader Marcy Cepeda; Kantaye Kristo Rai choir; Cabrera Funeral Service; CHC doctors & staff; CNMI Medical Referral; Cabinet Members of the Fitial Administration; PSS Administration and former colleagues.

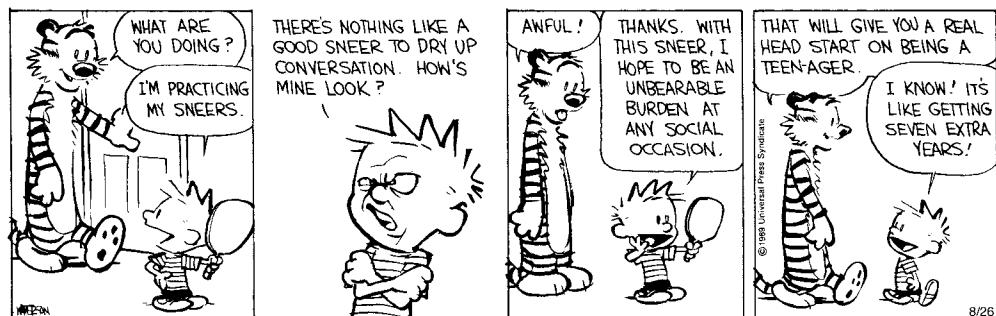
To our relatives and friends & to all who have supported us in one way or another, for your presence at the nightly rosary, the Eucharistic Celebration of his life and placing him to rest and most especially for your offering of mass and prayers. The many acts of kindness and generosity gave us the strength and courage to endure our loss.

May God bless us all!

Olympia Reyes Santos
Children & Family

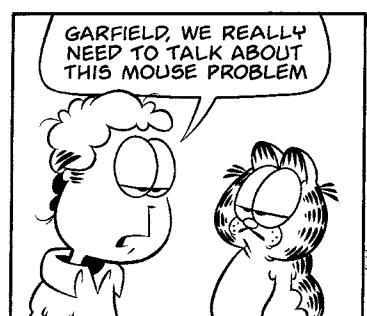
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



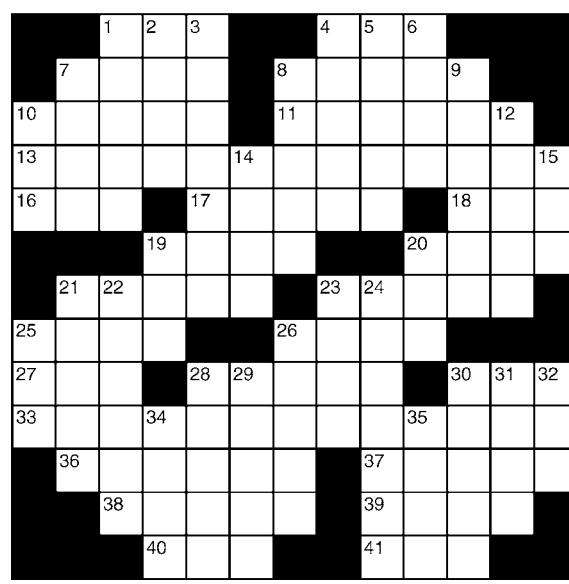
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN									
1	Star player, for short	27	Regret	2	Swerve	14	Charged bits	15	Potent stick	19	24
4	Banned bug spray	28	Gaggle members	3	Knot for human consump-	20	Payable	21	Soup eater's noise	22	Spelling methods?
7	No stay-at-home	30	"Skip to My —"	4	Evade	23	Average	24	100 centavos, in Guatema-	25	Illustrations
8	Matlock's work-place	33	1996	5	Writes	26	Force away	27	100 centavos, in Guatema-	28	Grind your teeth
10	Cole Porter's "Gay" city	36	Word group	6	Small combo	29	English composition	30	100 centavos, in Guatema-	31	A single time
11	Like a lot	37	Goose	7	Fence opening	32	GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Not everything is a top priority issue, even if someone is trying to push you to make a decision. Consider what suits you best and you will find a way to make your dreams come true. ★★★	33	100 centavos, in Guatema-	34	Rainbow
13	Square 1	38	Twine	8	Shrewd	35	CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fear failure or back away because you think someone can outdo you. Believe in yourself and what you have to offer and so will everyone around you. Share information and ask for suggestions. ★★★★	36	100 centavos, in Guatema-	37	Turner or Fey
16	Aviv preceder	39	Initial stake	9	Miscel-	38	TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your reserved approach will give you the inside scoop and help you make a very crucial, future-altering decision. A partnership that has been up in the air can now be developed. Be patient and willing to listen. ★★★	39	100 centavos, in Guatema-	40	Yecch!"
17	Regions	40	Timid	10	Opener at	41	Force away	42	100 centavos, in Guatema-	43	Turner or Fey
18	Moving vehicle	41	Geese?	11	Calif. hours	42	GRIND (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more effort into love and romance and you will get fabulous results. Your devotion to a cause you believe in will enhance your position in a group you belong to and bring about a very interesting and prosperous proposal. ★★★★	44	100 centavos, in Guatema-	45	Yecch!"
19	Say it isn't so	42	DOWN	12	Make	43	LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional matters will flare up, leaving you in a defenseless position if you have promised too much. Don't bother trying to manipulate the situation. Confess and move on before you end up losing out personally and financially. ★★★	46	100 centavos, in Guatema-	47	Turner or Fey
20	Lexicographer's bk.	43	Aesopian ending	13	1	44	VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put more effort into love and romance and you will get fabulous results. Your devotion to a cause you believe in will enhance your position in a group you belong to and bring about a very interesting and prosperous proposal. ★★★★	48	100 centavos, in Guatema-	49	Yecch!"
21	Gets dirty	44	into law	14	2	45	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stick to the game plan you laid out or you will have to face opposition and complaints. Your knowledge and experience will pay off now if you can implement some of the lessons you have learned in the past. ★★★	50	100 centavos, in Guatema-	51	Turner or Fey
23	Crouch	45	ending	15	3	46	TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your reserved approach will give you the inside scoop and help you make a very crucial, future-altering decision. A partnership that has been up in the air can now be developed. Be patient and willing to listen. ★★★	52	100 centavos, in Guatema-	53	Yecch!"
25	Actress Jessica	46	law	16	4	47	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Lay your cards on the table and discuss any matters you feel may, because of a lack of trust, stifle a deal. Generate a higher level of interest by enforcing something that will be hard to resist and will create conversation among your peers. ★★★	54	100 centavos, in Guatema-	55	Turner or Fey
26	Libertine	47	Yecch!"	17	5	48	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dig deep and get to the bottom of any situation you face before you make a life-altering decision. Love is in the picture but instability will result if you cannot make up your mind about a connection you still have to your past. Face matters head-on. ★★★	56	100 centavos, in Guatema-	57	Turner or Fey
		48	Turner or Fey	18	6	49	CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't fear failure or back away because you think someone can outdo you. Believe in yourself and what you have to offer and so will everyone around you. Share information and ask for suggestions. ★★★★	58	100 centavos, in Guatema-	59	Turner or Fey
		49	Yecch!"	19	7	50	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't lose sight of what's going on around you. Someone may try to out-	60	100 centavos, in Guatema-	61	Turner or Fey
		50	Turner or Fey	20	8	51		62	100 centavos, in Guatema-	63	Turner or Fey
		51	Yecch!"	21	9	52		64	100 centavos, in Guatema-	65	Turner or Fey
		52	Turner or Fey	22	10	53		66	100 centavos, in Guatema-	67	Turner or Fey
		53	Yecch!"	23	11	54		68	100 centavos, in Guatema-	69	Turner or Fey
		54	Turner or Fey	24	12	55		70	100 centavos, in Guatema-	71	Turner or Fey
		55	Yecch!"	25	13	56		72	100 centavos, in Guatema-	73	Turner or Fey
		56	Turner or Fey	26	14	57		74	100 centavos, in Guatema-	75	Turner or Fey
		57	Yecch!"	27	15	58		76	100 centavos, in Guatema-	77	Turner or Fey
		58	Turner or Fey	28	16	59		78	100 centavos, in Guatema-	79	Turner or Fey
		59	Yecch!"	29	17	60		80	100 centavos, in Guatema-	81	Turner or Fey
		60	Turner or Fey	30	18	61		82	100 centavos, in Guatema-	83	Turner or Fey
		61	Yecch!"	31	19	62		84	100 centavos, in Guatema-	85	Turner or Fey
		62	Turner or Fey	32	20	63		86	100 centavos, in Guatema-	87	Turner or Fey
		63	Yecch!"	33	21	64		88	100 centavos, in Guatema-	89	Turner or Fey
		64	Turner or Fey	34	22	65		90	100 centavos, in Guatema-	91	Turner or Fey
		65	Yecch!"	35	23	66		92	100 centavos, in Guatema-	93	Turner or Fey
		66	Turner or Fey	36	24	67		94	100 centavos, in Guatema-	95	Turner or Fey
		67	Yecch!"	37	25	68		96	100 centavos, in Guatema-	97	Turner or Fey
		68	Turner or Fey	38	26	69		98	100 centavos, in Guatema-	99	Turner or Fey
		69	Yecch!"	39	27	70		100	100 centavos, in Guatema-	101	Turner or Fey
		70	Turner or Fey	40	28	71					

Yesterday's answer 8-26



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

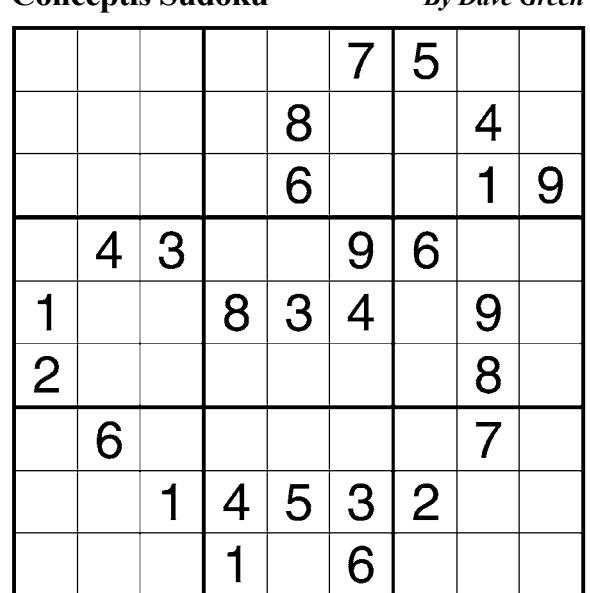
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

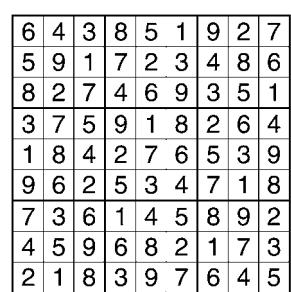
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEM LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FILLING A PRESCRIPTION

By DAVID OUELLET

Solution: 7 letters

D	E	N	M	N	O	I	T	A	C	I	D	E	M	H
A	E	M	U	R	R	D	E	R	U	S	N	I	E	T
E	P	S	A	R	O	C	E	Y	D	T	A	O	C	L
R	T	I	N	N	S	F	R	E	R	L	N	I	P	A
E	N	F	L	E	I	E	L	H	C	I	N	U	R	E
N	E	A	N	L	P	I	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H
O	M	X	L	A	V	S	R	S	L	R	T	X	C	C
I	Y	E	P	E	I	E	I	C	O	P	I	O	E	(E)
T	A	D	R	O	T	C	O	D	I	B	N	S	(Y)	
I	P	Y	E	A	A	A	I	E	P	D	T	(O)	S	L
T	S	D	K	M	T	S	C	S	I	L	(D)	A	R	H
C	D	E	R	I	E	E	T	T	Y	D	A	S	I	T
A	R	A	N	U	R	R	I	O	P	H	O	N	E	N
R	H	G	T	D	G	O	S	C	R	I	T	S	O	
P	A</													

Rivers signs \$93M extension with Chargers

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Philip Rivers got his big-money contract extension. Now all he needs to do to keep up with Eli Manning and Ben Roethlisberger is to win the Super Bowl.

Rivers signed a six-year contract extension Monday with the San Diego Chargers worth \$93 million, with \$38 million guaranteed.

A person familiar with the contract confirmed the numbers to The Associated Press, but requested anonymity because the team did not release any figures. The deal goes through 2015.

Rivers said he was “thankful to have many more opportunities to suit up and go out there and be the quarterback for the Chargers and short term, to be able to just do all I can to lead us to a championship.”

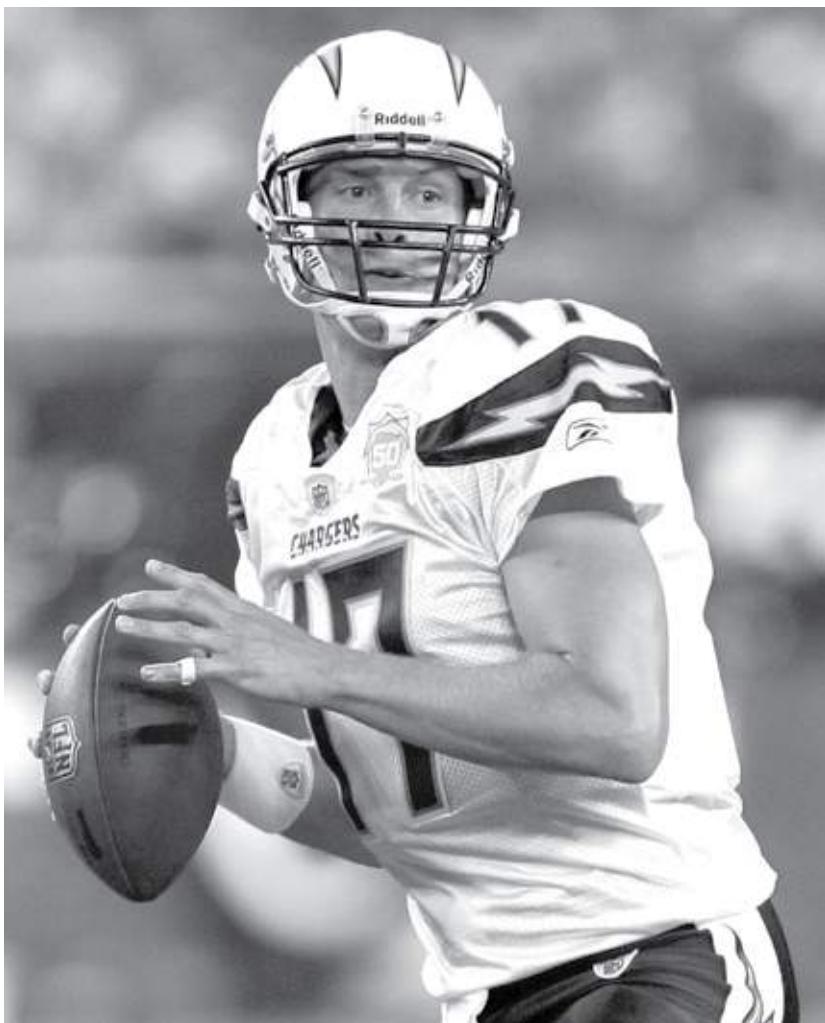
Rivers will always be linked with Manning.

In 2004, with the Chargers coming off an NFL-worst 4-12 finish, Manning’s family asked San Diego not to draft him with the No. 1 pick overall. General manager A.J. Smith did anyway, then sent him to the Giants for Rivers - who was taken at No. 4 - and a handful of picks.

Roethlisberger was the 11th pick overall that year and was the first of the Big Three QBs of the 2004 draft class to win a Super Bowl, following the 2005 season. Manning got his Super Bowl ring two seasons later by leading the Giants to an upset over the previously undefeated Patriots. Roethlisberger won his second Super Bowl in February.

Rivers said there’s no extra pressure to win the Super Bowl.

“I don’t think there can be any more pressure added, commitment added, determination from my side or from anybody in that locker room to want to go win a championship,” he said. “There’s no outside or monetary driv-



In this Aug. 22, 2009 photo, San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers looks to pass against the Arizona Cardinals during the first quarter of an NFL preseason football game in Glendale, Ariz.

ing force that can make me want to win any worse than I do. I’ve always hated losing and don’t know if I can hate it any more, so there’s really nothing that can give me any extra drive.”

Rivers is coming off his best pro season, when he threw 34 touchdown passes to tie former teammate Drew Brees for the NFL lead and break Hall of Famer Dan Fouts’ Chargers record.

He also led the NFL with a quarterback rating of 105.5, another team record. He had 4,009 passing yards, joining Fouts as the only QBs in team history to throw for more than 4,000 in a season.

“This is a great day for the Chargers and Chargers fans,” team president Dean Spanos said in a statement. “Philip has proven he has all of the necessary qualities to be a successful

Eagles teammates say Vick ready to play

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Michael Vick jogged off the field after another long practice and headed straight for the air-conditioned comfort indoors.

All that extra work could be paying off. Vick’s teammates said the quarterback looks ready to play when the Philadelphia Eagles host Jacksonville on Thursday.

“I’m not a quarterback or a quarterback coach so I wouldn’t know exactly, but as a defensive guy watching I can tell you that he’s ready,” safety Quintin Mikell said Monday.

Coach Andy Reid is expected to say Tuesday whether Vick will make his Eagles debut in an exhibition home game against the Jaguars.

Vick is eligible to play the next two preseason games, but not in the regular season. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said he would consider Vick for full reinstatement by no later than Week 6 (Oct. 18-19).

“He’s ready for another chance,” offensive lineman Shawn Andrews said.

Since Vick’s first day with the Eagles, he has stayed after practice to work with offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg and assistant coaches. He was joined Monday for 20 minutes by Donovan McNabb and the other three QBs on the roster.

The Eagles have kept practices open, but are not allowing the media to report on specifics, a standard policy around



Philadelphia Eagles quarterbacks Michael Vick, right, and Donovan McNabb practice at NFL football training camp in Philadelphia, Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

the NFL.

But while the Eagles prefer to keep their intentions to themselves, it’s clear Vick wasn’t brought to Philadelphia to be a backup and that he figures into the team’s plans. Vick’s skills are perfectly suited to run a wildcat formation, and he’s familiar with Philadelphia’s version of the West Coast offense.

“I think he’s had about three coordinators who have all been similar in their style,” McNabb said. “There is nothing for me to tell him. He’s obviously watched throughout my career and he’s run the offense himself. He’ll

get a chance to kind of see it in action, move around in it, try to run it and try to execute the plays.”

Off the field, Vick has kept quiet. Vick did not violate the terms of his probation nor the conditions of his NFL reinstatement when he drank an alcoholic beverage on the night after his first practice with the Eagles, a team spokesman told The Philadelphia Inquirer.

A report in the Aug. 16 editions of the New York Post described Vick as “sipping on a Grey Goose (vodka) and pineapple juice” at a restaurant near the Philadelphia Airport.

quarterback in the NFL. He’s a proven winner and an unquestioned leader for this football team.”

Smith didn’t return calls seeking comment.

Indeed, Rivers led San Diego to the AFC championship game following the 2007 season, where they lost to New England. He played that game despite having a torn ACL in his right knee.

Manning recently signed the biggest contract in the league, a six-year extension worth \$97 million, with \$35 million guaranteed and an average salary of \$15.3 million starting next season. Roethlisberger signed an eight-year contract extension worth \$102 million in 2008.

Rivers became the starting quarterback in 2006. He’s led the team to the playoffs in each of the past three seasons and has a career record as a starter, including playoffs, of 36-18. The 27-year-old Rivers is 22-5 at home and also holds the Chargers’ record with a 92.9 career passer rating.

“He’s a good dude, man, and I’m hap-

py for him and I’m happy that he’s here long term,” said tight end Antonio Gates, who has his locker next to Rivers.

Gates said the Chargers had fun kidding Rivers at practice about his big deal, but knows the money won’t change him.

“At the end of the day I know what it means for him to go out here and play football and know the passion he has for us to win,” Gates said. “I think that’s the biggest thing about him. The thing I’m going to remember when I’m done playing ain’t going to be the big contracts, it ain’t going to be the money, it ain’t going to be the cars. It’s going to be the person I had the chance to sit next to.”

Sure enough, Rivers, a father of four, said he’s going to keep driving a minivan.

“It’s the most efficient for the kids,” he said. “They can get in an out. It’s hard to buckle them in the car seats if you’ve got to climb back there in all the SUVs.”

Favre to play first half against Houston

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—Brett Favre’s crash course in all things Viking ramps up this week, with coach Brad Childress saying Monday he expects the 39-year-old quarterback to play the entire first half of Minnesota’s next exhibition game at Houston.

Favre signed last Tuesday, arriving with such fanfare that there was little time to fully prepare for his first appearance in purple, which came Friday night against Kansas City.

He played two series against the Chiefs, going 1 for 4 for 4 yards and no first downs.

The Vikings’ third preseason game is next Monday night, and typically is when coaches play their starters the most. Childress said it will be important for Favre to get plenty of snaps to try to build chemistry with his offensive teammates before the regular season opens at Cleveland on Sept. 13.

Even though Favre missed more than two weeks of training camp, Childress said there was still plenty of time for him to catch up with the offense and

learn his teammates’ tendencies.

“He’s doing everything he needs to do to get up to speed,” Childress said. “(I’m) confident we’ve got the type (of team) and distance to be able to do that.”

After the game Friday night, Favre said he “didn’t miss a beat” calling the plays. He ran a nearly identical offense in Green Bay for 16 seasons and has said he knows the system so well that he could teach it.

He arrived in the Twin Cities to a circus-like atmosphere. A helicopter followed him from the airport to the team’s headquarters, where more than 100 fans and 50 members of the media were staking out the entrance.

Now that his first game with the Vikings is out of the way, the former Packers icon said he expects things to mellow out as the preseason progresses.

“Each day it has gotten a little bit smoother after all of the newness has worn off,” Favre said after the 17-13 win over the Chiefs. “It’s really (become) just about football.”

Burress discusses shooting in TV interview

NEW YORK (AP)—Plaxico Burress said in a television interview he didn’t realize he’d accidentally shot himself until he saw the blood dripping onto his sneaker.

In an excerpt of an ESPN interview broadcast Monday night, the former New York Giants receiver said the shooting happened about five minutes after he entered the Latin Quarter night club in Manhattan.

“I take two or three steps and like my pants are wet,” Burress said in the interview. “I had some Chuck Taylor’s (Converse sneakers) and I looked down and the top of my shoe is red.”

Burress said he immediately turned to then teammate Antonio Pierce and asked the middle linebacker to take him to the hospital.

“And he was like ‘Why?’” Burress said. “I said I just think I shot myself, and he was like ‘Noooo!’”

The full interview will be broadcast

Tuesday night.

Burress pleaded guilty last week to a weapons charge stemming from the November incident and accepted a two-year prison term. He is to be sentenced Sept. 22.

He said his .40-caliber Glock fired after he missed a step walking up stairs. The gun began to slide down his pant leg, and Burress said he accidentally pulled the trigger through his pants when he tried to stop the gun from hitting the ground.

“My finger hit, like, right on the trigger,” he said. “What are the odds on that happening?”

Burress, who alleged security staff knew he was carrying a gun upon entering the club, said he was wearing black jeans, not sweat pants as previously reported.

When asked why he didn’t have a holster, Burress said simply:

“Bad judgment.”

Beasley checks into rehab facility



MIAMI (AP)—Michael Beasley told his personal manager several days ago that he was working out in Houston because it brought “a change of scenery” from Miami and Washington.

What happened next is apparently a mystery, even to those who know Beasley best.

The Miami Heat forward checked into a Houston rehabilitation facility for treatment last week, two people briefed on the situation told The Associated Press on Monday. Each spoke on condition of anonymity because of privacy concerns; one said part of Beasley’s treatment revolved around some stress-related issues, and both declined to say if Beasley was receiving drug or alcohol counseling.

“Based on what I’m getting right now, there’s a bit of concern,” Bruce Shingler, Beasley’s manager, told The AP in a telephone interview. “I don’t really know what’s going on. I just know his mom is on her way to go see him in Houston. That’s it. I’m still collecting a lot of information.”

It’s unknown how long Beasley will remain at the facility, or whether he will be available when the Heat open training camp on Sept. 28.

Shingler also said he wasn’t sure how long Beasley has been in Houston, or specifically why that was his destination.

“From what I know, he was just getting ready for the upcoming season,” Shingler said. “The last time I talked to him, everything was going well. All this rehab and all that, I was totally unaware. It all started as he wanted to go work out in a different place because he wanted to get away. Now this, I don’t know what’s going on.”

The saga started in earnest Friday, when a photo of the No. 2 pick in the 2008 NBA draft was posted to his Twitter account, in which Beasley displayed a new tattoo across his shoulders. The image also captured what appeared to be a small plastic bag on an adjacent table, the contents of which were unclear.

Beasley was already getting treatment when the photograph - and several comments, including “Feelin like it’s not worth livin!!!!!! I’m done” and “I feel like the whole world is against me I can’t win for losin”—were posted on the feed.

Beasley’s account has since been closed. An-



AP
This is a March 20, 2009, file photo showing Miami Heat forward Michael Beasley, right, attempting to get to the basket as he is guarded by New Jersey Nets’ Trenton Hassell during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game in East Rutherford, N.J.

other account he used was shut down July 27.

“What Michael Jr. is going (through) is just a bump on the road we call life,” said a posting

Monday on Michael Beasley Sr.’s Twitter feed.

“Please pray for him, he needs it.”

A phone call to Beasley Sr.’s home in Bowie,

Md., went unanswered.

Yahoo! Sports first reported Beasley entered a rehab facility.

Beasley finished his rookie season as Miami’s second-leading scorer behind Dwyane Wade, averaging 13.9 points and 5.4 rebounds. He spent much of the year as a reserve, and both Heat coach Erik Spoelstra and team president Pat Riley talked often this summer about utilizing Beasley more this coming season at small forward and power forward.

“Beas, we hope that we’re going to see a lot of him at the 3 spot,” Riley said in a conference call with the team’s beat writers earlier this month.

At times this past season, Beasley’s immaturity was of some concern to teammates. He typically laughed off such criticism, saying he was young and acting accordingly.

“The guy’s got a lot of talent,” Wade told The AP during a July conversation on a number of topics, including Beasley’s potential. “I can’t wait to see what he does with it. He’s 20 years old. I’d love to see it all come together this year.”

Beasley’s second season, much like his first pro year, is off to an ominous start.

Beasley was fined \$50,000 by the NBA last September after security officers at the league’s rookie symposium detected the scent of marijuana in a hotel room occupied by Beasley, Mario Chalmers, Darrell Arthur and two women. Chalmers and Arthur were fined \$20,000; Beasley drew the stiffer fine for at first trying to hide his presence from NBA officials.

Beasley told The AP in January that there were times during his first six months as a professional that he felt “everyone was against me” and that many things “get blown out of proportion”—referring specifically to the rookie symposium incident.

He spent one season at Kansas State before entering the draft, averaging 26.2 points and 12.4 rebounds in his lone college year.

“As a rule, I do not comment about the private lives of my student-athletes, either current or former,” Kansas State coach Frank Martin said in a statement. “However, Michael, like every student-athlete I’ve coached, will always have my undying support.”

Yang, Woods to meet again at HSBC Champions



SHANGHAI (AP)—Y.E.

Yang says his win over Tiger Woods at the HSBC Champions in 2006 was a major factor in setting up his victory over the world No. 1 last week in the PGA Championship that made him the first Asian golfer to claim a major.

Yang will meet Woods again at this year’s HSBC Champions in November, along with defending champion Sergio Garcia and world No. 2 Phil Mickelson.

Yang said in a statement on Monday that the 2006 win set the stage for greater achievements because it gave him the courage to pursue loftier goals, like playing on the PGA Tour and winning a major.

Others competing in the tournament Nov. 5-8 at Shanghai’s Sheshan International Golf Club include Paul Casey, Henrik Stenson, Stewart Cink and Padraig Harrington.

Meanwhile, in Verona, New York, Notah Begay III couldn’t have scripted it any better.

With more than 3,000 awestruck fans watching his every move, Woods captured the second annual Notah Begay III Foundation Challenge on Monday, surging past Camilo Villegas in the closing holes at Turning Stone Resort’s Atunyote Golf Club.

After Villegas won \$180,000 with a birdie at the 14th hole to boost his win-

nings for the day to \$200,000 in the skins game format, Woods won the next three holes to finish with \$230,000.

Begay birdied No. 18 for \$70,000, while Canada’s Mike Weir was shut out for the second straight year.

Begay received a check for \$750,000 for his foundation and Woods, his roommate in college at Stanford and his longtime friend, departed with the winning trophy, a piece of Pueblo Indian black pottery from Begay’s home state of New Mexico.

It was a rare appearance by the world’s top player, whose schedule leaves little room for such forays. Woods was glowing afterward, the stunning loss to Y.E. Yang in the PGA Championship a week ago erased by a few swings for charity.

“Today was incredible, to come here and bring awareness to what Notah is trying to do,” said Woods, who won five holes to three for Villegas. “It’s great to see what he’s doing, to put his heart, soul and passion into something like this and bring this many people together to help them understand and educate the public. I’m just so proud of him as a friend. We’ve been through a lot together.”

The event is a collaboration between the Oneida Indian Nation of New York and San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians of California. Begay, the only full-blooded Native American to play on the PGA Tour, established his foundation

in 2005. It uses the sports of golf and soccer to promote physical fitness and wellness among Native American youth, who are plagued by obesity and diabetes.

“To have Tiger be a part of this is just a tremendous asset for the foundation and the event,” Begay said. “I think he enjoyed himself. He beat us, but I think we’ve kind of grown accustomed to that.”

Just like a year ago, the first six holes were worth \$10,000 apiece, the second six \$20,000, holes 13 through 17 were worth \$50,000 each, and No. 18 was worth \$70,000.

Villegas won the inaugural event and seemed set to make it two in a row. After Woods birdied No. 8 to reach \$80,000, the players halved the next five holes to boost the purse for No. 14 to \$180,000.

Villegas hit his second shot at the 410-yard, par 4 to within 8 feet of the pin, then dropped to the turf in his spiderlike stance to study the line for the putt. After Woods’ birdie try slid a foot past the pin and Weir’s slid just left of the hole, Villegas calmly rolled his in.

Undaunted, Woods, the bottom of his gray pants wet from walking the soggy course, hit his second shot at the par-4 15th hole, a 442-yard dogleg, inside 10 feet of the pin and won the \$50,000 hole.

With a stiff right-to-left wind blowing at them teed off at No. 16, Woods hit to 8 feet and curled in another birdie putt for



AP
Tiger Woods hits out of the sand to the 18th green during the Notah Begay III Foundation Challenge at Atunyote Golf Club in Verona, N.Y., Monday, Aug. 24, 2009. Woods has won the Notah Begay III Foundation Challenge, edging defending champion Camilo Villegas

another \$50,000 as his three rivals failed to match him.

At No. 17, another par 4, after Villegas lipped out a 15-foot birdie putt and Weir missed again just left, Woods calmly sank the winning putt, a perfectly paced 12-footer for birdie.

Villegas had a chance for the win at the par-5 18th hole when Woods found a greenside bunker with his second shot.

But after the Colombian star pitched to within 5 feet of the pin on his third shot, he missed the birdie putt and Begay, despite an ailing back that relegated him to riding in a cart for a few holes, capitalized for the only time in two years.

The last time Woods appeared in a ma-

jor skins game format was in 2005, when he competed against Fred Couples, Fred Funk and Annika Sorenstam. Funk ended up the star in that nationally televised event, winning the most skins and showing some skin of his own by donning a skirt at one point after getting outdriven by Sorenstam.

Woods was scheduled to play in Begay’s event a year ago but had to skip it after injuring his knee. He made good on his promise this year and hinted that he might return.

“I’d do anything for him,” Woods said. “What he’s trying to do, and what he has done for Native American communities is unheard of, really.”

Pena, Zobrist homer as Rays rough up Halladay



Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Jeff Niemann works against the Toronto Blue Jays during first inning of a baseball game in Toronto on Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

AP



TORONTO

(AP)—

Carlos Pe-

na and Ben

Zobrist each hit home runs as the Tampa Bay Rays handed Toronto's Roy Halladay his worst outing in more than two years in a 12-7 win over the slumping Blue Jays in the American League on Monday.

Rod Barajas hit a grand slam to help Toronto build an early 6-3 lead, but Halladay (13-7) allowed eight runs, seven earned, in six innings to lose for the third time in five starts against the Rays this season.

Zobrist finished 3 for 4 with two RBIs and Jason Bartlett had three hits with an RBI, raising his average to .343, as the Rays won for the seventh time in nine games.

The Rays, who came in three games behind Boston in the AL wild card, snapped a four-game road losing streak.

Toronto has lost nine of 12 and fell to 3-10 against Tampa Bay this season.

Halladay (13-7), who gave up 12 hits, walked one and struck out eight, has lost four of his past six decisions overall. It was his second straight loss, the second time this season he has dropped two straight. The righty was tagged for four runs and

eight hits in five innings against Boston last Wednesday.

Halladay, who sat huddled at his locker with pitching coach Brad Arnsberg as the clubhouse emptied, denied feeling fatigued by a long season and persistent trade rumors leading up to the July 31 deadline.

"It just gets back to making pitches, it really does," he said tersely. "It's that simple. When you don't, they cost you. That's really all I can say."

The seven earned runs are the most Halladay has allowed since he gave up seven to Tampa Bay on June 5, 2007, a game Toronto won 12-11 thanks to a six-run ninth.

Monday's win "basically eradicates that old, bad memory," Maddon joked.

The Rays jumped on Halladay for three in the first. Zobrist hit an RBI single, Pena followed with a sacrifice fly and Pat Burrell (notes) singled home a run.

"That first inning kind of set the stage for a wacky game," Niemann said.

Red Sox 12, White Sox 8

At Boston, Jose Contreras' two-out error led to six runs in the third inning as Boston extended its offensive surge by scoring at

least 11 runs for the third time in four games.

Mike Lowell and J.D. Drew homered in the first meeting of the year between the teams, the latest they've ever faced each other for the first time.

Ramon Ramirez (7-3) pitched 1-2-3 innings for the win after starter Clay Buchholz was lifted with two outs in the fifth following Paul Konerko's three-run homer that made it 9-7.

Contreras (5-12) allowed only one earned run but contributed greatly to all seven he allowed in 2-2-3 innings.

Twins 2, Orioles 1

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker allowed a run and four hits over seven innings to lead Minnesota past Baltimore for its fourth straight win.

Jason Kubel drove in the go-ahead run and Alexi Casilla tripled and scored on a wild pitch from Baltimore rookie Chris Tillman (1-2) in the sixth inning.

Minnesota matched its season-high winning streak of four as it tries to gain ground on Detroit and the White Sox in the American League Central. The Twins were 4½ games back of the Tigers and two behind Chicago entering Monday.

Baker (12-7) retired 10 consecutive Orioles at one point.

After scoring the game's first run in the top of the third inning, the Orioles would get only one more runner in scoring position until the ninth.

Indians 10, Royals 6

At Kansas City, Missouri, Travis Hafner and Luis Valbuena each hit three-run homers as Cleveland sent Kansas City to a fifth straight loss.

Hafner drove in four runs, tacking on an RBI double to sink the Royals even deeper into the AL Central basement.

The Royals took a 5-4 lead in the seventh on Yuniesky Betancourt's sacrifice fly off Jeremy Sowers (5-9).

But Kansas City closer Joakim Soria (3-2), who does not usually come in before the ninth, started the eighth and gave up singles to Jhonny Peralta and Hafner before Valbuena hit a 1-1 pitch over the fence in right for a 7-5 lead.

Mariners 3, Athletics 1

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his 625th homer, a two-run drive off Vin Mazzaro, as Seattle opened a 10-game homestand with a win over Oakland.

Jose Lopez hit a solo homer in the third, his career-high 18th, then was plunked on the hip by

a fastball from Mazzaro to open the fifth. With the count 1-1, Mazzaro (4-9) tried to sneak a fastball past the aging slugger.

Playing without right fielder Ichiro Suzuki for the first time since April 14, the Mariners started off its long homestand with solid pitching from Ian Snell (2-1).

Suzuki missed Monday's game with tightness in his left calf that flared up during Sunday's loss in Cleveland.

Tigers 10, Angels 7

At Anaheim, California, Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in five runs, and Carlos Guillen added a three-run shot as Detroit beat the Angels.

Justin Verlander (14-7) allowed four runs and 10 hits in 5 2-3 innings, struck out seven and walked two. The right-hander was working with a 10-run cushion in the sixth when he gave up four runs and four consecutive two-out hits for the AL Central leaders, who ended a two-game skid.

Bobby Abreu's three-run homer in the eighth left the Angels trailing 10-7.

The Angels' six-game homestand got off to a messy start with their fourth loss in five games. They've been outscored 34-17 in that stretch.

Cabrera hit a two-run homer

in the fifth off the first pitch from Jered Weaver (13-5).

Phillies 6, Mets 2

At New York, Ryan Howard homered twice and drove in five runs, and Cliff Lee won his eighth straight start as the Philadelphia Phillies beat the New York Mets 6-2 in the National League on Monday.

Lee (5-0) did not allow an earned run in seven innings, lowering his ERA with the Phillies to 0.68 in five outings since he was acquired in a July 29 trade with Cleveland. His record is 12-9 overall.

One day after second baseman Eric Bruntlett became the second major leaguer to end a game with an unassisted triple play, the Phillies beat their injury-riddled rivals in more conventional fashion.

Lee, last year's AL Cy Young Award winner, yielded six hits and no walks against a light-hitting lineup that featured Fernando Tatis (six homers) in the cleanup spot. The left-hander struck out five.

Philadelphia took the final three in a four-game series and won for the 11th time in 13 games overall, increasing its NL East lead to seven games over idle Atlanta.

Brewers 7, Nationals 1

At Washington, Ryan Braun hit a two-run home run to jump-start a six-run sixth inning as Milwaukee took three of four games from the Nationals.

The Brewers sent 11 batters to the plate in the sixth. Jody Gerut had a two-run single in the inning and also homered in the eighth.

Yovani Gallardo (12-10) gave up one run on four hits and four walks in five innings. He struck out eight.

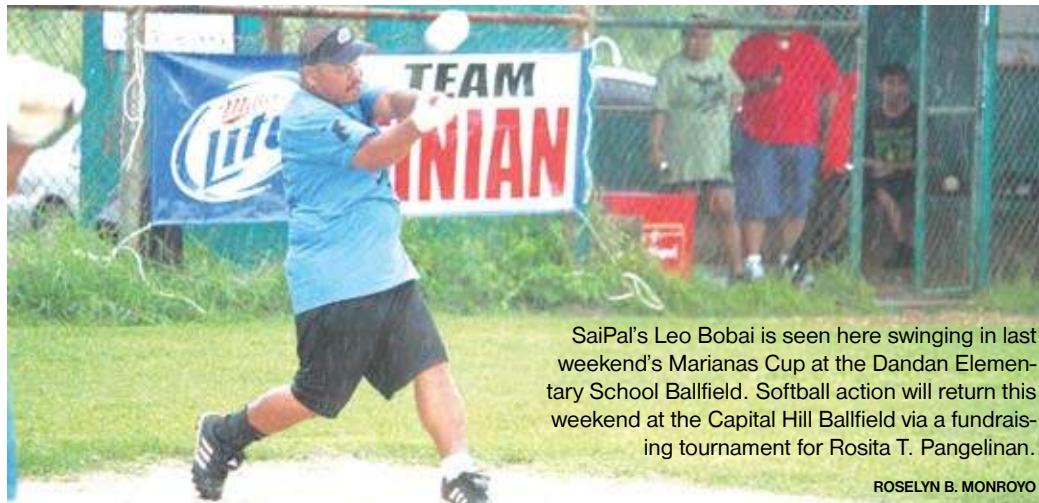
Nationals starter Collin Balster (1-4) had a career-high six strikeouts in five-plus innings.

Rockies 6, Giants 4, 14 innings

At Denver, Ryan Spilborghs hit a grand slam in the bottom of the 14th inning to give Colorado a victory over San Francisco that increased its lead in the NL wild-card race to four games.

The Giants had taken a 4-1 lead in the top of the 14th on Eugenio Velez's two-run triple and Juan Uribe's groundout.

But Brian Medders walked Dexter Fowler leading off the bottom half. One out later Justin Miller (2-2) relieved and gave up a one-out single to pinch-hitter Chris Iannetta. He then walked Troy Tulowitzki and Adam Eaton to make it 4-2. Merkin Valdez, the Giants eighth pitcher, came on and Spilborghs homered into the Rockies' bullpen to give Colorado a four-game lead in the NL wild-card race.



SaiPal's Leo Bobai is seen here swinging in last weekend's Marianas Cup at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield. Softball action will return this weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield via a fundraising tournament for Rosita T. Pangelinan.

ROSELYN B. MONROY

CNMI

From Page 28

Sugao Kambe said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The CNMI female strikers fell behind, 0-6, at the end of the first half.

"With players getting some encouragement and motivation at halftime, they played a bit better in the second half, but most of them were really tired, physically," he added.

The CNMI bets came to Taiwan only one day before the

EAFF event started. Kambe's wards left Saipan early morning on Aug. 18 and in the afternoon in the same day they dueled the JEF United Ichihara Chiba Ladies U-18 in Japan. The following day, the CNMI female strikers challenged JEF United's Ichihara Chiba Ladies.

The CNMI Women's National Football Team left Japan on Thursday and arrived in Tainan on Friday. The next day, the team debuted in the EAFF tournament against Guam.

Carrie Knight scored the Commonwealth's first goal in

an international tournament in the CNMI's 1-5 loss to Guam.

Kambe's players took only a day rest, as they were pitted against the No. 56th-ranked Hong Kong on Monday night. Today, the CNMI bets will be facing the much tougher South Korea, which is the highest ranked team among the five squads, occupying the No. 21 spot in the FIFA rankings list.

"We will have a good rest today [yesterday] and hopefully they will recover enough to play a good game

Softball fundraiser for Rosita this weekend



The softball community is calling on interested teams to participate in the 2009 Slow-pitch Softball Fundraising Tournament for Rosita this weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Tournament coordinator Janice Camacho said all proceeds from the tournament that will run from Aug. 28 to 30 will be used for Rosita T. Pangelinan's medical expenses. Pangelinan is battling

cancer and is currently undergoing treatment off-island.

"Again, we are calling members of the sports community to join this worthy tournament and help Rosita and her family," Camacho said.

Entrance fee for the three-day tournament is \$150. Camacho is expecting to have eight teams in the weekend event, which will have a double-elimination format.

A mandatory meeting is set for tonight at 6pm at the con-

ference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Managers or any representatives of interested teams can attend the meeting.

Schedule of games and ground rules will be discussed at the meeting.

Besides the softball tournament, friends and family members of Pangelinan will also hold a golf tournament to raise funds for her treatment.

For more information, contact Camacho at 235-1698. (PR)

taking home \$30,000, \$20,000 for runner-up, \$15,000 for third, \$10,000 for fourth, and \$5,000 for fifth.

In the East Asian Football Federation Men's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition, South Korea and Hong Kong drew first blood.

South Korea topped Guam, 9-2, on Sunday, while Hong Kong shut out the host, 4-0. Hong Kong was scheduled to play South Korea in the first game at 4:30pm yesterday, while Chinese-Taipei was to collide against Guam at 7pm.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	78	46	.629	—
Boston	71	53	.573	7
Tampa Bay	68	56	.548	10
Toronto	57	67	.463	20 1/2
Baltimore	51	74	.408	27 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	66	58	.532	—
Chicago	63	61	.504	3 1/2
Minnesota	62	63	.496	4 1/2
Cleveland	55	69	.444	11
Kansas City	47	77	.382	19

West Division

Los Angeles	74	49	.602	—
Texas	69	54	.561	5 1/2
Seattle	64	61	.512	11
Oakland	55	69	.444	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	72	50	.590	—
Atlanta	66	58	.532	7
Florida	65	59	.524	8
New York	57	68	.456	16 1/2
Washington	44	81	.352	29 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	72	54	.571	—
Chicago	62	60	.508	8
Houston	61	63	.492	10
Milwaukee	62	63	.492	10
Pittsburgh	52	71	.423	18 1/2
Cincinnati	51	71	.418	19

West Division

Los Angeles	74	51	.592	—
Colorado	71	54	.568	3 1/2
San Francisco	67	58	.536	7
Arizona	55	70	.440	19
San Diego	52	74	.413	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 12, Toronto 7
Boston 12, Chi White Sox 8
Minnesota 12, Baltimore 1
Cleveland 10, Kansas City 6
Seattle 3, Oakland 1
Detroit 10, LA Angels 7
Philadelphia 6, NY Mets 2
Milwaukee 7, Washington 1
Colorado 6, San Francisco 4

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

IT&E Inter-Gov't/Biz League Standings

IT&E	4	0
MBI	3	1
CHC	2	0
Docomo	2	1
PSS	2	2
Hyatt	1	0
DCCA	1	1
Tinian	1	1
BOG	1	3
Customs	0	2
CPA	0	3
ARFF	0	3

DECENA

From Page 28

over the Cook Islands' Ngana Nicholas. Decena and Nicholas slugged it out in the first set before the former pulled off a 7-6 (5). The second set was much easier for the CNMI bet, as he cruised to a 6-4 triumph.

Later in the afternoon, Decena maintained his momentum and topped Fred Pickering, also of the Cook Islands, in the first set, 6-3. Decena capped his second-day sweep with a 6-0 shutout win over Pickering in the second set.

Decena was dueling Fiji's Kunal Singh in his last game in Pool B yesterday. Results of

Day 3 matches were unavailable at press time, but win or lose, Decena is assured of a ticket to the next round.

Decena's closest pursuer, American Samoa's Christian Duchnak, had only a 3-1 record after Day 2. If Duchnak had won over Nicholas in Day 3 yesterday and Decena had lost to Singh, there will be a tie for first. In this case, Decena is likely to have an upperhand in the tiebreak, as he appeared to have won more games than Duchnak in the first two days of the tournament. The CNMI netter thwarted Duchnak in straight sets on Sunday, 6-2, 6-0.

Decena's other victory in the opening day was against teammate Christian Miller, 6-0, 6-0.

DCCA dropped to a 1-1 slate. It won its debut over Customs, 84-82.

In the second game, IT&E extended its winning streak to four to keep the lead after dominating Customs.

Junior Rengul fired all his nine points in the first period to give IT&E a good start. Jomary Tumaquip added six in that can-to, which ended with IT&E in front by 10, 25-15.

In the second period, the lead

Miller remained winless in the tournament, as he dropped two more games on Monday. He lost to Singh in his morning match, 3-6, 0-6, and failed to recover in the afternoon against Duchnak. However, Miller gave the American Samoa a run for his money, sending the game into a deciding third set.

Duchnak drew first blood with a 6-3 win, but Miller came back strong, taking the second set, 6-1. The clincher was a neck-and-neck battle and unfortunately, Miller was on the losing end, 5-7.

Rafael Jones, who is in Pool B, entered the win column on Monday after crushing Papua New Guinea's Robin Morove in their afternoon match, 6-0,

ballooned to 24, 47-23, as IT&E capitalized on Customs' weak defense or the lack of it.

IT&E then alternately used its bench players and starters in the second half and the results were even better for the host. Midway in the third period, IT&E doubled Custom's output, 70-35.

Ryan Sanciangco top-scored for IT&E with 19 points, hitting three triples nonchalantly in the fourth period. Tumaquip added 15, while big men Darwin Barbo

and Bruce Berline contributed 13 and 10 markers, respectively.

Second Game

MBI 80 – De Vero 24, Capalad 13, Gapor 11, Demapan 6, Achas 6, Barbo 6, Trajano 5, Nonato 4, Cabrera 3, Alvarez 2.

DCCA 64 – P. Camacho 14, Ignoef 12, Benavente 12, C. Camacho 8, Young 6, Taisacan 3, Igencias 2, Rogolifoi 2, Flores 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-13, 40-31, 65-44, 80-64.

and Queen event, participants have an option to bowl on both days, but only the highest score is counted.

Emi Williams, who was fifth in Day 1 with 678 pinfalls, moved up to third, as she recorded 697 pinfalls in the second roll-off. Carol McKenzie climbed from 13th to fourth with her 686 pinfalls on Monday.

In the King of the Lanes, 11 keglers who joined the second roll-off failed to beat Castro's Day 1 score of 909 pinfalls.

Castro knocked

Softball fundraiser for Rosita this weekend



The softball community is calling on interested teams to participate in the 2009 Slow-pitch Softball Fundraising Tournament for Rosita this weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield. **27**

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rivers signs \$93M extension with Chargers



Philip Rivers got his big-money contract extension. Now all he needs to do is keep up with Eli Manning and Ben Roethlisberger to win the Super Bowl. **24**

28 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI strikers bow to Hong Kong



CNMI goalie Rebecca Newman, center, goes for a save against Hong Kong forward Kwong Wing Yan, left, during their game in the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition on Monday at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fatigue had taken its toll on the CNMI Women's National Football Team, as shown in the Commonwealth's 0-10

loss to Hong Kong in the second day of the East Asian Football Federation Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifinals Competition at the Tainan County Stadium, in Tainan County, Taiwan.



"I noticed that they [players] were tired during the warm-up and 10 minutes after the game started, it looked like the match was almost over. We really had a bad first half," CNMI coach

See CNMI on Page 27

Zapanta keeps streak, Camacho, Castro prevail



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighth and still counting

Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta extended his reign in the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament after ruling the August roll-off on Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta submitted a total of 716

pinfalls in four games to beat five other youth keglers and gain his eighth straight monthly title.

Zack Cruz was in the best position to end Zapanta's rule when the former collected 551 pinfalls after three games against the latter's 542. Cruz took the lead after three games with his 168 pinfalls in Game 1 and 232 and 151 in Games 2 and 3, respectively.

Zapanta started slow with 155 pin-

See ZAPANTA on Page 27

Strong start lifts MBI, IT&E to win



IT&E's Jomary Tumaquip goes for a layup against a Customs player during their game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and IT&E stepped on the pedal early en route to easy wins against separates foes in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ivan De Vero drilled 11 first-quarter points and MBI went on to take a 25-13 advantage, leading to an 80-64 victory over the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

In the second game, IT&E had a walk in the park against Customs, recording a 96-53 rout.

After posting an early double-digit lead in the first period, MBI slowed down a bit in the second canto with De Vero held to only a pair of free throws. DCCA then picked up the scoring with Peter Camacho and Romeo Iginoef leading the attack to cut the lead to nine, 31-40.

However, MBI was at it again, with De Vero regaining his form and drilling 12 markers in the third quarter to give

See STRONG on Page 27